

Mubarak warns parties

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has warned political parties against making religion an issue in Monday's parliamentary elections in Egypt, although his own party appears to be chasing the decisive Muslim vote. "Using religion to win the vote is a sensitive and dangerous... playing with the country's stability could lead to destruction," Mr. Mubarak told a political rally in the Nile Delta town of "7" today. "There is no difference between a Muslim and a Christian... we are all Egyptians," he added. More than 10 per cent of Egypt's 51 million people are Coptic Christians in a mainly Sunni Muslim population. Mr. Mubarak's warning came after candidates of the six legal political parties contesting 448 elected seats in the 458-member People's Assembly, including Mr. Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP), raised religion as an issue. NDP candidate Amal Osman, the only woman cabinet minister, appeared recently, for the first time in public, in a long Islamic dress with her head covered, praying in the country's oldest mosque. Pictures of Ms. Osman sitting next to a popular Muslim scholar, Sheikh Mohammad Metwali Shurawi, appeared in the newspapers.

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Portuguese government falls

LISBON (R) — Portugal's minority centre-right government was voted out of office Friday night in a parliamentary vote backed by three left-wing opposition parties. Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva's 17-month-old administration, labelled arrogant and incompetent by the opposition, was the 16th government since Portugal's 1974 revolution ended nearly 50 years of right-wing dictatorship. President Mario Soares, who returns from a visit to Brazil on Sunday, now faces the task of either forming a new government or calling an early general election. The Socialist Party (P.S.) Democratic Renewal Party (PRD) and Communist Party (PCP), with 140 of the 250 parliamentary seats, voted for the motion against the ruling Social Democratic Party (PSD) and its Christian Democratic allies. Before the vote, Mr. Cavaco Silva bitterly attacked the motion tabled by the centre-left PRD, calling it "irresponsible." "This motion makes no sense... there are no good reasons to bring down the government," the prime minister said. His government's period in office, marked by relative political calm in comparison with previous administrations, coincided with the country's first year as a member of the European Community.

King sends good wishes to Senegal and Hungary

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent cables of good wishes to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and Hungarian head of state Pal Cosencsi congratulating them on the occasion of their countries' Independence Day. The King wished President Diouf and Mr. Cosencsi continuing good health and happiness and the people of Senegal and Hungary further progress and prosperity.

Jordan-Egypt private sector council to meet

CAIRO (Petra) — The Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council will hold its annual meetings in Cairo on April 12 under the patronage of Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedqi. A delegation of 20 Jordanian businessmen will take part in these two-day meetings.

Paediatrics talks end

AMMAN (Petra) — The fourth Jordanian paediatrics conference concluded its two-day meetings in Amman on Friday after adopting a number of recommendations stressing the importance of placing immunisation on the top of national health priorities. Dr. Hassan Farouk, chairman of the conference and president of the Jordanian Paediatrics Association, said participants emphasised that most of the anti-diarrhoea drugs have side-effects on children and therefore should not be used for treating diarrhoeal diseases. He added that participants stressed the importance of holding periodic meetings and conferences so that paediatricians become familiar with the recent breakthroughs. See earlier story on page 3.

Palestinians appeal to Thatcher

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to help them fight Israeli restrictions preventing them from being reunited with their families. The Committee for Family Reunification in the Occupied Territories said they sent a letter to Mrs. Thatcher asking her to seek their human rights as assiduously as she has fought for freedom for Soviet Jews wanting to go to Israel. "Family reunification is a serious concern not only for Jews... but also for Palestinians whose spouses or relatives are living abroad and who are being denied reunification by the Israeli military authorities," the letter said.

U.S. defector listed as deserter

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. army private has been listed by the Pentagon as a deserter from West Germany after the Soviet Union announced that it had given asylum to an American soldier of the same name. The Pentagon on Thursday identified the missing man as Private 2nd Class Wade Evan Roberts, 22, but said it could not confirm whether he had defected from his post at Giessen, West Germany, to the Soviet Union. Roberts had been absent without leave since March 2.

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King visits Syria for talks with Assad on moves for peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer, with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein paid a brief working visit to Damascus on Friday and held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on efforts for Middle East peace and issues of mutual concern.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks covered the latest developments in the Middle East and issues related to bilateral relations. Diplomats quoted in news agency dispatches from Damascus said the King and President Assad exchanged views on efforts towards convening an international conference on the Middle East to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The King's talks with President Assad included two meetings attended by senior officials from both sides and two tete-a-tete discussions between a working lunch. On the Jordanian side the open discussions and the working lunch were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Top-level PLO team to hold talks in Moscow on PNC

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A top-level Palestinian delegation left for Moscow on Friday upon an "urgent" Soviet invitation to two major Palestinian factions for talks on current efforts to convene a reunification session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) this month in Algiers, according to well-placed Palestinian sources.

The delegation, which senior officials of Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), left Tunis for Moscow Friday evening, the sources said. No further details were available on the Soviet invitation but the two factions have been pressing for convening a PNC session in Algiers on April 20 despite strong Syrian disapproval and reservations expressed by other Palestinian factions opposed to the policies and leadership of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The Soviet Ambassador in Amman, Alexander Zinchuk, said in an interview this week that Moscow supported efforts to reunify the PLO.

"As a matter of principle we support Palestinian unity," he said. "In practical ways we give them advice and (hold) consultations to restore Palestinian unity," he added. The Soviet envoy did not elaborate, but said Moscow had not decided yet whether the Soviet Union would send a delegation to the next PNC. Moscow did not send a delegation to the 16th session of the PNC, held in Amman in November 1984, which was boycotted by all the Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups. But over the last two years or so Moscow has

been actively backing efforts to reunify the PLO.

According to Palestinian sources, however, Moscow wanted all major factions of the PLO to attend the next PNC session. The sources expected the Moscow talks to focus on recent Soviet efforts to reconcile between Damascus and the PLO leadership as well as reservations expressed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) over a five-faction accord to hold the PNC in Algiers.

The Tunis accord is said to have contained a Fatah approval to officially abrogate the Feb. 11, 1985 Jordan-PLO agreement and set up a collective Palestinian leadership. The PFLP, backed by other opposition factions, however, insisted on official statements by the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee announcing the annulment of the Feb. 11 accord and called for severing all Palestinian contacts with Cairo. But Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times that Fatah refused to stop contacts with Cairo as a pre-condition for the PFLP to attend the council but that it was ready to discuss the issue during a national Palestinian dialogue which is scheduled to start in Algiers on April 10.

There were still conflicting reports on Friday about the PFLP's willingness to attend the PNC and to meet with Mr. Arafat. Sources in Algiers and Tunis confirmed to the Jordan Times that there would be a meeting soon between PFLP leader George Habash and Mr. Arafat, but a statement issued by the front in Damascus categorically denied plans for such an encounter.

BUC issues urgent appeal to kidnappers over Steen

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut university urgently urged a kidnapper group Friday to send dying academic Alamin Steen to hospital as a Beirut magazine reported that Professor Steen and his three colleagues might be freed soon.

The executive committee of Beirut University College (BUC) said Prof. Steen needed to be put into intensive care immediately and appealed for the release of the other three.

It was reacting to a video recording issued by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Thursday night in which Prof. Steen's fellow hostage Jesse Turner said the 47-year-old communications instructor was in grave danger.

"We feel his life will be over in a few hours. His condition is worsening," Prof. Turner said.

According to an earlier video message from Prof. Turner, Prof. Steen is suffering partial paralysis, anxiety and difficult breathing as the result of a childhood blow to the head.

The Beirut weekly magazine Al Shiraa, close to Lebanese radicals, quoted informed sources as saying the four BUC academics would be released very soon.

"A way out is being sought to free them without any repercussions, since their abduction was for reasons different than those of the other hostages," Al Shiraa said.

Americans Steen, Turner and Robert Polhill and Indian Mithleshwar Singh, who were seized on Jan. 24, are among 28 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

drawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people.

Damascus Radio said Thursday that Syria had called for such a conference many years ago and warned of Israel's efforts to block efforts towards convening it. The radio called on all Arabs to come forth with a united strategy to ensure that the Arab stand receives the full support of the international community.

Syria favours the proposed conference but insists its discussions should be based on Palestinian rights and full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, the Al Baath daily said.

Al Baath said peace-making could be initiated at an international conference, which should be based on the U.N. resolutions and provided that the U.N. resolutions were adhered to. However, the paper added, these should not be viewed as preconditions but prerequisites. Peace cannot be based on injustice and cannot be a recognition of the

(Continued on page 3)

Shelling and sniping kill three Palestinians in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shelling and sniping fire killed two children and a woman at besieged Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut on Friday, Palestinian spokesman said.

The spokesman said the mother of the two dead children was badly wounded when a mortar bomb exploded in Shatila camp.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in a separate statement that Shiite Amal militia snipers killed a woman when she ventured out of the nearby Bourj Al Barajneh camp to buy food.

Amal, whose men have ringed the two camps for more than five months, denied that they shot the woman.

Supplies set ablaze

BEIRUT (R) — A truck carrying 16 tonnes of emergency food provided by Saudi Arabia for Beirut's beleaguered Palestinians was set ablaze on Friday, when fighting flared at the Shatila camp, witnesses said. They said Syrian observers supervising the relief operation were forced to take cover as gunfire erupted and sniping bullets smashed into the blazing vehicle. Palestinians said Amal militiamen exchanged machinegun and mortar fire around the camp.

Palestinians say Amal snipers have killed more than 30 women as they walked out of Bourj Al Barajneh to buy supplies since Amal partially lifted sieges of the two camps in February.

Meanwhile, 150 Palestinians marched through west Beirut from Mar Elias camp, which is not under siege, shouting slogans and waving banners in protest against the continued sieges.

A truck loaded with 12 tonnes of flour, milk powder and a variety of canned food donated by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia was allowed by Amal to enter the bomb-devastated Shatila, local reporters said.

Amal has been fighting the Palestinians intermittently since May 1985 with the declared objective of preventing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rebuilding the Lebanon power base.



CHARITY WALK: Participants in a cross country charity walk cover the Amman leg of the event on Friday (See page 6)

Jordan protests Turkish court's handling of Sati murder case

ANKARA (R) — Jordan has complained to Turkey over the handling of a court case against the alleged killers of Jordanian Ambassador Hani Tabbarah said Friday.

Mr. Tabbarah told Reuters the Turkish Foreign Ministry had been told "at all levels" that the trial of Adnan Musa Suleiman Ammarin, an embassy administrative officer, in the Sati case breached his diplomatic immunity.

"This is a clear violation of the immunity of our official Ammarin. Above that, according to data from this end and Amman, it is very clear to us that the Jordanian defendants have nothing to do with the affairs that the (Turkish) security and the prosecution are trying to link them to," he said.

Mr. Tabbarah said Turkish diplomats in Amman would not now be covered by immunity. "The court decision to the effect that Ammarin has no immunity deprives Turkish officials at their embassy in Amman of immunity," he said.

The state security court hearing the Sati case decided in December that Ammarin had immunity. But two days ago, in a trial of 20 people accused of bombing an ammunition factory and the attempted murder of a witness in the Sati case, it ruled that he did not.

"It is an irony... the same court, the same building, the same judge," said Mr. Tabbarah on Friday.

In a sitting lasting into Thursday, the court brought Ammarin back into the Sati case on a charge of being involved in the attempted killing of the witness, Rafet Shaban.

Ammarin and Ali Kent, a Turk of Iranian origin, were sentenced to 15 years in jail last month by a military court on charges of spying for Syria. That court ruled that Ammarin had no immunity because he was a long-term resident of Turkey.

Diplomats monitoring the cases said they had many puzzling and unsatisfactory aspects, and

many unsubstantiated claims.

Defendants often alleged torture and say police made them sign blank sheets of paper on which statements were later written.

The killing of Mr. Sati, shot in his car in Ankara in July 1985, was alleged in the indictment to be the joint work of the breakaway Abu Nidal Palestinian group and the shadowy Islamic Jihad (holy war) organisation.

Asked about Ammarin's alleged links with Islamic Jihad, one senior envoy said Friday: "It is absurd. He is a Christian. They cannot substantiate any of the allegations."

In addition to Ammarin and Kent, four Palestinian students are accused in the Sati case, two of them hold Jordanian passports. A Syrian and two other defendants are being tried in their absence.

Much of the prosecution case was put in doubt on Thursday when the court heard a letter from Shaban, signed in Amman

(Continued on page 3)

JDECO chief rules out agreeing to Israeli terms

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hanna Nasir, president of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDECO) has said he was disappointed with an Israeli decision to take over the company but he could not agree to an Israeli demand to take over the concession in areas where only Jewish settlers live.

Israel says the JDECO, which employs 470 Palestinians, is about \$20 million in debt to the IEC from which it must buy most of the power it distributes.

The IEC officials said Thursday that the IEC would take over JDECO when its concession ends on Dec. 31 because they had been unable to reach an agreement on sharing the distribution of electricity.

The JDECO, established during Ottoman rule over Palestine under a 60-year concession, provides electricity to an estimated 650,000 Arabs and Jews in the occupied West Bank and parts of Jerusalem.

Mr. Nasir told Reuters he was disappointed by the Israeli decision, but said he could not agree to an Israeli demand to take over the concession in areas where only Jewish settlers live.

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Soviets deny reported pledge of higher emigration 'quota'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has denied that it would allow a specific number of Jews to emigrate to Israel this year and said normal Soviet-Israeli relations depended on a solution of the Middle East problem.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said applications to emigrate were considered in accordance with Soviet laws and some were rejected because the applicants knew state secrets.

"There will be no quotas," Gerasimov told a news briefing. U.S. Jewish sources in New York said this week that Soviet officials had pledged during talks in Moscow that up to 12,500 Jews would be allowed to leave for Israel via Romania this year, a far higher figure than in the recent past.

Gerasimov said the question of emigration via Romania had not been raised at an official level. Soviet Jews at present emigrate through Vienna, from

Rifai and Masri to seek defined U.S. stand on int'l conference

CAIRO (R) — Jordan will seek a defined U.S. position on a proposed international Middle East peace conference to convene this year, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri was quoted as saying on Friday.

Mr. Masri, who will accompany Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to Washington this weekend for talks with U.S. officials, told Cairo's daily Al Ahram they would seek "U.S. acceptance of the conference in principle in accordance with Jordan's point of view."

The United States has in the past rejected that forum, but has recently shown willingness to explore possibilities of holding the conference.

"Jordan has not felt a shift (in the U.S. position), but there is more flexibility now than before," Mr. Masri said.

Jordan would not accept the conference as a prelude for direct talks, as expounded by Israel and the United States, Mr. Masri said, adding that Jordan was now concentrating efforts with Washington on the nature of the conference and its role.

"If the conference was not held this year, it might never be held," Mr. Masri warned.

On Palestinian representation, the minister said there was no new formula but reaffirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should participate in the conference.

Mr. Masri is expected to visit Tunis Saturday to attend a regular Arab League ministerial meeting, which will discuss the European Community's February declaration supporting the conference idea.

Kremlin views Thatcher visit as event of great importance

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Kremlin leadership has described British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to the Soviet Union as an event of major importance despite discord on key issues including arms control, Pravda said Friday.

The Communist Party newspaper said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhikov and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had reported to the ruling politburo on Thursday on the results of their talks with Mrs. Thatcher.

It said they noted the "great significance" of the talks for bilateral and international relations and stressed the importance of dialogue with a major Western power in the conditions prevail

ing in Europe and the world today.

"(The dialogue) allowed open presentation of views on relations between states and different social systems, on regional conflicts, other major problems and — most relevantly — on the perspectives for disarmament," Pravda said.

A deeper comparison of positions and clarification of each other's intentions took place.

"The talks showed that both sides recognise the importance of resolving the problem of medium-range missiles, although Britain continues to surround its approach to an accord with stipulations..."

Pravda said major differences remained on key questions.

Clocks move forward for summer time savings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Friday started its first day of summer time with clocks moved one hour forward. Summer time will be adopted until Oct. 2, 1987 after which Jordan will go back on winter time.

In the coming six-month period of summer time, the time in Jordan will be three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) instead of two, a practice followed for the third consecutive year in the Kingdom. The move follows a government-led campaign which began in 1984 with

the aim of rationalising energy consumption as part of an effort to reduce the Kingdom's fuel import bills.

By adopting summer time, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources hopes to save one hour's worth of energy each day by making more use of sunlight.

In 1985, the first year that Jordan switched to summer time after a break of seven years, the Kingdom saved about JD 1 million in fuel import bills.

Syria switched on to summer time on March 1 and Iraq moved to summer time as of April 1.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King honours Radda Barnen head

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday conferred on Hakan Landelius, former secretary general of the Swedish Save the Children (Radda Barnen), Jordan's Independence Medal of the Second Order in appreciation of his services for children, particularly in Jordan. The medal was handed over to Mr. Landelius by Her Majesty Queen Noor on Thursday at a special ceremony held at the Royal Court. Present at the ceremony were Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan, Director of Noor Al Hussein Foundation in Amman Mufti and the Swedish ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Lars Lonnback. Radda Barnen, in cooperation with Noor Al Hussein Foundation, has set up a children's institute in Sweidh.

Queen chairs Jerash Festival committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Higher National Committee on the Jerash Festival, which will be held during the 1987 summer. The meeting reviewed the festival's programme in which Arab and foreign troupes from 12 different countries will take part. A spokesman for the committee said that troupes will come from Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Britain, the Soviet Union, Poland, the United States as well as Jordan. The meeting, he said, discussed a number of organisational matters related to the festival which will be held under royal patronage between July 8 and July 31.

Princess Basma opens SCF festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the president of the Jordanian Save the Children Fund, Friday opened a festival held by the fund at the Amman Plaza Hotel. The festival included performances and displays of popular and international children's fashions, fancy dress parades as well as various children's games. A number of diplomatic missions, social and cultural organisations, the armed forces musical band, the Royal Jordanian folkloric troupe as well as various school teams took part in the event. Proceeds from this event will go to the fund's various projects and services in the country. At the end of the festival Princess Basma presented director of the Amman Plaza Hotel Louis Cavitzel with a prize in appreciation of the services offered by the hotel to the fund.

Dajani visits Mafrag Governorate

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani on Thursday said that the ministry will coordinate with officials in Mafrag Governorate to facilitate issuing passports and civil registration certificates to citizens in remote areas. During an open meeting in Ruweisah, Mr. Dajani said his ministry is keen on improving the performance of all administrative units in all governorates, districts and sub districts to meet the needs of citizens. Following the meeting Mr. Dajani inspected work at the temporary border point in Ruweisah and toured the new premises currently constructed there at a cost of JD 1 million. Mr. Dajani also visited desert police stations in the governorate.

JPA presents requests to Khatib

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Press Association (JPA) has presented Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib with a number of requests designed to help promote the work of Jordanian journalists. The requests were presented by JPA President Rakan Al Majali and association members at a meeting with the minister on Thursday. One request calls on the government to amend the present association law to make it more flexible to recent developments. Mr. Majali also briefed the minister on the association's present financial situation. The minister stressed that the Ministry of Information will continue supporting the JPA and will study means of supporting it financially to help it carry on with its national task.

Municipality to discuss World Bank loans

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-member delegation from the Greater Amman Municipality left for the U.S. on Thursday for talks with officials at the World Bank regarding loans to support the municipality's various projects.

European parliamentarians find out facts on Palestine problem

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation of European legislators are scheduled to hold talks today with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akf Al Fayez to obtain first-hand information about the Palestine problem.

The 13-member delegation, representing both the European Parliament and national assemblies, Thursday held separate meetings with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Dudin briefed the delegation on the latest developments in the Middle East as well as Jordan's continued support for Palestinian refugees in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Petra quoted Mr. Dudin as urging the international community to shoulder its responsibilities towards assisting Palestinian refugees who have been evicted

from their homeland by the Israeli authorities.

He told the delegation that convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, remained the only means towards solving the Palestine problem. The meeting was attended by the Ministry's Under Secretary Ahmad Qatantani and other officials, Petra said.

UNRWA Public Information Officer William Lee, who is accompanying the delegation on their visit to Jordan, said the parliamentarians "were very impressed with their meetings with both ministers."

The group arrived in Amman on Thursday after a four-day visit to the West Bank and Gaza Strip where they met prominent Palestinian figures including mayors, academics and eminent journalists, Mr. Lee told the Jordan Times.

In addition to the Euro-Parliament representation, the delegation comprises legislators from the national assemblies of

France, Norway, Portugal, the Netherlands, France, Britain, West Germany, Belgium, Spain and Italy, Mr. Lee said. A member of the Finnish parliament is accompanying the group as an observer and a former senator from France is also on the visit.

On Saturday the parliamentarians will pay field visits to the most populous Palestinian refugee camp of Baqa'a (nearly 60,000 people) as well as the Jerash (Gaza) refugee camp which accommodates approximately 8,000 people.

The fact-finding tour, according to Mr. Lee, is being sponsored by the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation (PAEAC) in cooperation with UNRWA. Two members of the current delegation already visited the region last year on a similar mission within UNRWA's policy of bringing the plight of Palestinian refugees to the attention of the international community.

The group is expected to wind up its visit on Sunday.

Contractors discuss merger possibilities

By Rana Sabhagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Contractors Association (JCA) has completed assessing the viability of establishing bases for setting up off-shore companies and merging other local institutions to overcome a projected scale down in the sector's activities in the coming years.

"In the next development scheme, the volume of work will be reduced since the majority of the Kingdom's infrastructure will be completed by 1990. We have to prepare ourselves for the future," and this could only be attained through such mergers, JCA President Ali Abn Al Ragheb told the association's general assembly meeting on Friday.

The issuance of a defence order setting the basis for merging local contracting firms is expected in the coming 10 days and the step is seen as a means to create larger companies — with greater equipment and accumulated expertise — to eventually replace foreign contracting organisations working here. It will also develop these companies into more substantial institutions and will upgrade their managerial and financial skills to enable them face the tough market competition.

At present, 400 companies have registered with the JCA's classified categories (from 1-5) and official figures reveal that the total registered paid up capital of all classified contractors to date is JD 100 million.

Friday's gathering was the first general meeting since the election of the association's two-year council last March.

The 42 JCA general members who attended the gathering endorsed the association's 1986 budget and administrative report which included setting up JCA branches in Irbid and Karak, establishing a computer centre, studying the association's new internal charter — to be issued in October — and the follow-up on the JCA 1986 law. The JCA's 1986 budget amounted to JD 218,011.

Training schemes

Two main suggestions raised during the meeting centred on increasing the number of trainees engineers included in the association's training scheme and means for halting the fierce competition among local contractors to win tenders through undercutting each other.

Under JCA's present training scheme, 20 trainee engineers are working for grade one and grade two contracting firms which cover their total expenses and 10 other candidates are employed by fourth and fifth grade companies with the JCA and their employers sharing the cost of paying their salaries.

After discussing several options for finding more job opportunities for these young graduates, the assembly entrusted the JCA council to study alternative possibilities.

The economic recession in the area and the expected public expenditure of between JD 140-180 million on construction in 1987 are two major problems facing contracting firms which are greater in number than the volume of work.

Undercutting

To overcome the expected slowdown, some contracting companies are following an undercutting policy under which they secure tenders by greatly lowering their bids, often well below cost prices.

Mr. Abu Al Ragheb pledged that the association would do its utmost to put an end to the policy of crash-pricing, but urged contractors to be more cooperative and to adhere to a reasonable tender pricing system.

He said the JCA would soon issue a pricing index and noted that the government welcomed any approach under which tenders could be granted to companies with reasonable prices and good quality work.

In response to mounting complaints that 43 per cent of the total volume of construction during 1986 was carried out by foreign companies, the association said it was ready to do the best it could to offer more chances to local firms.

According to 1986 statistics, construction sector employs 17 per cent of the total working force out of which 11 per cent are Jordanian labourers.

GUVS raises JD 790,437 for cancer centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan has to date raised JD 790,437 in contributions from individuals and organisations to help start work on the Amal Cancer Centre, according to a GUVS annual report released on Thursday.

The report said that at least JD 1 million was needed to start the first stage of the project and that a special technical team is now making ready to commence work on the centre during 1987.

The report also said that GUVS raised JD 50,000 worth of food supplies, furniture and clothes and JD 50,000 in cash from various organisations, banks

and companies and all this was distributed to 3,750 needy families around the country over the past year.

The report was read out to a general assembly meeting held at GUVS headquarters under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan. The minister voiced appreciation for the efforts of various voluntary and charitable societies in the country and said this work complements his ministry's endeavours to offer assistance and raise the standards of the less fortunate sectors of Jordanian society.

The report revealed GUVS'

budget for 1987 is JD 3,823,880 compared with 1986's budget of JD 3,068,473 and said that GUVS assistance to charitable societies in 1986 registered an increase of 50 per cent over that given in 1985.

The report detailed the different projects carried out in the country by GUVS during the past year and the different training courses and seminars organised for society members. These projects, the report said, totalled 155 and GUVS offered loans and assistance to needy university students totalling JD 62,500 and distributed computers to 75 charitable societies on the East and West Banks.

U.S. provides \$26.2m for wide range of enterprises

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Jordan, represented by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and the United States government, represented by Mr. Lewis R. Reade, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Thursday signed an agreement for \$26.2 million in loans and grants to finance five assistance projects. Road construction, agriculture, business management, community health and manufacturing enterprises will benefit from this financial support, according to a press release issued by the American Centre in Amman.

Of this, \$10 million will provide for continued improvement of the Amman-Na'ur-Dead Sea road, a vital link between the capital, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, the West Bank, and the southern port of Aqaba. This three-year project is being implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and is expected to stimulate greater regional development and transportation efficiency. Among the benefits expected to be realised are greater industrial and agricultural production through reduced highway user costs, enhanced tourist industry production and improved movement of trade through the Jordan Valley from Aqaba to Amman, the release continued.

Management programme

A programme of administrative training for public and private sector managers will also benefit from a new grant of \$1.5 million, bringing the total U.S.

Health training

A grant of \$4.5 million adds continued support to a six-year American-Jordanian programme aimed at enhancing the training of private health care workers.

Housing Bank posts JD 2.86m net profit for 1986

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank last year made a net profit of JD 2.86 million and will distribute dividends to shareholders at the rate of 11 per cent, according to an annual report read out at a Housing Bank general assembly meeting on Thursday. The report said that the general assembly unanimously approved the 1986 financial statement which provides for allocating JD 14 million as reserves for the bank.

Following the meeting, the chairman of the bank's board of directors, Mr. Zubair Khouri, said that so far the Housing Bank has contributed JD 17.5 million to the capital of various companies and organisations and to economic projects in the Kingdom.

The Housing Bank will continue to carry out its primary mission of providing funds for construction projects, especially housing projects for families of limited or low income and will also offer loans to individuals purchasing their own homes, Mr. Khouri said.

Over the past 13 years, the Housing Bank has been instrumental in implementing major construction projects in the country and has contributed to building approximately 70,000 housing units, Mr. Khouri pointed out. He said that the Housing Bank has now 81 branches in different parts of the country in order to extend services to as wide an area as possible and to help in the construction of the country.

U.S. funds programme to improve rural family health

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States government has signed an agreement with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for a three-year, half-million dollar programme to improve the health of Jordanian rural families.

The agreement for \$537,385 was signed by Mr. Lewis Reade, Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan, and Sister Leona Donahue, Country Representative of Catholic Relief Services, according to a press release issued by the American Centre in Amman.

Based on a similar CRS project on the West Bank, this East Bank programme will train selected women from Karak, Southern Ghor and the Ma'an/Wadi Musa

areas in first aid, disease symptoms, complications of pregnancy, child spacing, personal hygiene, and sanitary procedures for food preparation and storage.

These para-professionals will in turn offer training courses to women from 30 villages who, through home visits, will monitor the health of the local families. Cases in need of professional medical assistance will be referred to the regional public health centres, the release said.

The programme will be directed by Mrs. Hanneh Dababneh, in close coordination with Ministry of Health personnel. This cooperation will provide for continuation of the project on the expiration of the three-year grant, it added.

Paediatricians discuss paper on benefits of breast feeding

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fourth Jordanian symposium on paediatrics which opened in Amman on Thursday has discussed a working paper from Jordan dealing with a study on the benefits of breast feeding. The paper, which points out the benefits of mothers' milk for children aged between four and six months, was presented by Dr. Saad Hijazi from the University of Science and Technology.

Two other working papers from Britain and West Germany were discussed by delegates participating in the two-day symposium which is being attended by nearly 400 Arab and foreign specialists and paediatricians.

The symposium was opened by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh who spoke about the benefits of vaccination for children at an

early age to prevent disease. Dr. Hassan Khreis, president of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA), welcomed Egypt back to the Arab Doctors Federation and said that Egypt's participation is essential. Dr. Hassan Faroun, president of the Jordan Paediatric Society, said that the symposium aims at helping paediatricians to be oriented on the latest trends in paediatric treatment.

In addition to Jordanian physicians, guest lecturers from England, Germany, Holland and Finland are participating in the symposium which will discuss a host of topics including the prevention of high risk pregnancy, the treatment of premature infants, feeding premature infants, recent advances in etiology and the treatment of diarrhoea.

U.S. theatre group explores complexity of human relationships in two plays

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two, what promise to be very interesting pieces of relatively recent American theatre are coming to the Royal Cultural Centre next Saturday, April 4 and Sunday April 5. Brought to Amman by the American Centre in cooperation with the Royal Cultural Centre and the Royal Theatre Company, "Remember Them Kindly" and "The Gin Game" are being performed by the National Theatre Alliance, a non-profit association of North American Artists incorporated in the State of Arizona.

The first play "Remember Them Kindly" is a collage of scenes taken from classic American plays that deal with the nuclear family in all "its diversity through America's two hundred year history." The play takes a look at the American family from colonial to contemporary times through the eyes of such American dramatists as Lindsay and Crouse (Life with Father), Frank Glroy (The Subject was Roses), Peter Stone (1776), Lillian Hell-

man (The Little Foxes), Stephen Sondheim (The Miller's Son), Tad Mosel (All the Way Home), Robert Anderson (I'm Herbert), Stephen Metcalfe (Vibings) and Larry Shue (The Foreigner). Following no chronological order but criss-crossing through both time and the continent, the play portrays "this cornerstone of American life."

Playing the game

"The Gin Game" is the highly acclaimed first play of D.L. Coburn which opened at the Golden Theatre in New York in October, 1977. It is a clever, sharp, two-character black comedy that through a series of card games of gin-rummy reveals the loneliness, poverty and weaknesses of two inmates of an old peoples home.

Weller Martin is a veteran of old-people's homes, a cantankerous rebel who shuns the company of the other inmates preferring to play solitaire on the decaying porch. That is until Fonia Dorney arrives, still quivering with shock at finding herself insti-

tutionalised. Weller persuades her to join him at the card table where, hand after hand, she keeps winning with seeming insouciance. Weller at first is surprised, then discomfited and angered and finally apologetic with rage, his rage at losing a mirror of the self-destructive impulses that have wrecked his life. Her primness, her ability to win while disguising her will to win, her quiet needling reflect the sour emotion with which she has alienated her husband and her child — facts that are revealed in their talk as they play. The character's deadly and inevitable frustrations inevitably build up to the climax of the play which, as theatre critic Jack Krill writes, "touches a disquieting nerve of shock and violence, a kind of terminal terror of human relationships." "The play," he concludes, "works in a way at once macabre and moving."

Tickets are JD 3 for each performance and are available from the Royal Cultural Centre. A special price of JD 4 is available when tickets for both shows are purchased at the same time.

Odeh, Qasem return from IDB meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has taken part in the annual meeting of governors of Islamic Development Banks (IDB) which was held in Istanbul on March 31. Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh and Central Bank of Jordan Governor Hussein Al Qasem represented Jordan at the meeting. In a statement upon returning to Amman, Mr. Qasem said that the IDB and Jordan signed two agreements under which Jordan will obtain a total of \$35 million to finance projects.

The first agreement for \$20 million will help Jordan purchase crude oil and oil products and the second agreement worth \$15 million will help Jordan finance a project for developing the Zarga River Basin region.

During the meeting in Istanbul the Jordanian delegation held side meetings with IDB governors, Mr. Qasem said. The meeting, he added, resulted in the conclusion of several agreements with United Nations organisations and agencies and the approval of a long-term programme for financing trade between IDB member countries.

King and Assad exchange views

(Continued from page 1)

legitimacy of aggression or the occupation by force. Therefore, the paper said, the conference should be based on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights to self-determination and the total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. If the conference is not based on these principles, then "it will only act as a seminar or a forum or an umbrella, which the aggressor can use for imposing its conditions on others," it said.

Official sources in Amman, quoted by news agencies, said earlier that King Hussein would visit Morocco, the Netherlands, Belgium and Britain to press his efforts for convening an interna-

tional conference this year to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Prime Minister Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri will visit Washington on April 6 and 7, the sources noted.

King Hussein will go to Rabat on Saturday, the Hague on Sunday and Brussels on Monday before travelling to London, the sources said.

They said the trips to Rabat and London were private, but the King was likely to confer with British Prime Minister Thatcher. Mr. Rifai and Mr. Masri were expected to meet Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and will report to the King in London on Wednesday, they said.

Jordan complains to Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

in front of Justice Minister Riyad Al Shakra, in which he retracted his earlier testimony.

Shaban, a student at Ankara's Middle East Technical University, had said the four Palestinians were involved in killing Sati and Amman was involved in trying to kill him.

He said in his letter he had

been forced to work for the Turkish intelligence service (MIT) and his testimony to the court and to the police followed a scenario which it wrote.

"The reason why I came out with all those lies was a deep fear of being killed..." the letter said. "I am ready to testify in Jordan to a Turkish investigation team that all those against whom I testified earlier are innocent."

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE JORDANIAN SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

Announces that the fund's bazaar at Amman Plaza Hotel will continue on today, Saturday, April 4, 1987, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. to allow for the sale of the items left in all sections of the bazaar.



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VIEW FROM AMMAN

By Dr. Kamel S. Abu Jaber

The education system: Effects on our society

OVER the past few weeks, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has been conducting a survey of our schools and other educational institutions. His aim is not only to reemphasise his personal interest in the process of education in Jordan and the need for improvements, qualitatively and quantitatively, but to generate serious rethinking concerning the entire operation from the physical facilities to the less tangible, though more lasting, more important effects on our society. The time is right and the call for an overall assessment and rethinking will certainly find a welcome response from the educational authorities on all levels including the educators themselves.

The content of education as well as the method by which it is imparted are of vital interest. And, if we have emphasised the negative effects of the rote system previously, it is because it lies at the heart of the problems facing our educational system in the long run. The rote system with its emphasis on memorisation, is an individual act expanding, for those who are more capable of memorisation, their individual capacity, and thus, by definition, deemphasising team work. And while a certain amount of memorisation is necessary and desirable, as is a certain measure of individuality, the fact cannot be denied that we carry both to the extreme: Often it turns not only to selfishness and disdain of others, but to the development of what the French call *incivisme*, the lack of social consciousness. This at an historical moment in our life when what we most need is social cohesion and team work. This

also explains, at least in part, why so many of us are good on the individual level yet cannot produce collectively; at a time when modern society cannot function properly without team work. Coupled with the loosening of family ties and the effective break-down of our extended family and tribal system, the process has been leading to the atomisation of our social order with many individuals finding it more and more difficult to relate to others or to society at large. Thus exposed, the individual can fall victim to his own selfishness or to fanaticism, with conspicuous consumption as the pattern of living and a lack of genuine care for others or their feelings. The "I" becomes supreme.

Modern life places as much responsibility on the educational process as on home upbringing. That is why the content of our system is of extreme importance and why it should be handled with tender care: We have to teach our youth to relate to themselves, their family, their immediate surroundings as well as their society. Abstract thinking which we emphasise is excellent for certain people at certain levels, and in certain areas and instances but can be, if as closely adhered to as it is now, harmful. What we teach, for instance, in our Arabic poetry memorisation classes, incidentally, they are called just that, memorisation, is not the love of poetry or its appreciation, though this may be the result for some who are gifted, but perhaps the opposite. Much of the required memorisation is not only devoid of social content, teaching as it does

boastfulness of self, harmful criticism of others, insincere extolling of those in high places for gainful purposes, but abstract thinking as well.

We need to teach appreciation, we need to teach how to do things, we need to teach team-thinking leading to team-work and we need to set free the imagination of our youth. Only thus can our society be better prepared to respond to the twenty-first century and we are, or should be teaching for that century. Presently, by the limits we place on the imagination of our youth, they learn to fear the unknown, since we teach mostly for the past, perhaps only partly for the present. And while we are doing that, the world around is passing us by. Our past is beautiful; it is more than that, and we should love and cherish and teach respect for it; but it should not be an idol for our worship. Homage is due our glorious past though the purpose of homage is to move forward not to be tethered, immobile. Our past will become more glorious when we are on our feet not on our belly, participating with contemporary civilisation, innovating and creating, contributing and adding.

As of now, we continue to stuff the mind of our youth with non-combustible data and continue to choke them with facts as if designed to give them the sense of motion without really moving. Unrelated information and facts that do not change are surely of some value, but how to use these facts and mastering them is infinitely more important.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Arab leaders' responsibility

IT is natural for any Arab citizen to welcome the current intensive efforts for ending differences among Arab states and bolstering solidarity among them. King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz referred to these efforts during his meeting with Arab journalists and intellectuals in London on Thursday. The differences which King Fahd referred to exist only among leaders of Arab countries and not among the Arab people themselves. It is to be noted that Arab masses everywhere have been showing increasing disappointment with the continuation of these differences and the lack of coordination among leaders of Arab countries who should be working in harmony to serve their people and safeguard the national rights of the Arab Nation. These Arab leaders should respond favourably to the wishes of the Arab masses and take speedy action for removing all obstacles in the way of Arab solidarity. The time factor is important and should be duly exploited by these leaders because their Arab peoples continue to face a common enemy backed by formidable allies who are bent on directing aggression on the Arabs and keeping them as divided as ever. What is needed now is complete harmony and joint action on the part of the Arab Nation and an initiative for resolving problems in the Arab region. Removing Arab differences among Arab countries could be the first step which should be followed by a strong joint action. Any shirking of responsibility on the part of Arab leaders is bound to be detrimental to the Arab Nation's interests and the future of the Arab World.

Al Dustour: Camps tragedy continues

THE residents of the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut are still living through a tragedy imposed on them by the siege of their camps and the continued shelling of their homes. The Shi'ite Amal Movement which has been imposing the siege is continuing to bombard the ruined homes of the camps and denying their innocent residents the basic needs of life. Amal is finding all sorts of pretexts for prolonging the sufferings of the Palestinian people by preventing medical and other relief supplies from entering the camps despite appeals from different churches and international organisations. Amal is using the residents in the camp as a weapon for diplomatic barter in violation of all international principles and norms and human rights. The starving of the innocent residents of the camps is a crime that should be stopped by world nations and organisations. Innocent people, mostly children and women, are being left to die of hunger or by snipers bullets for the sake of satisfying the desires of the leaders of the Amal Movement. It goes without saying that the only beneficiary of this tragedy is Israel and its allies. For this reason, we welcome any move by the Arab countries to end the fighting around the camps and lift the siege that has caused the death of thousands of people. We appeal to Arab foreign ministers, who meet on Saturday, to take speedy action to ensure an end to the bloodshed.

Sawt Al Shaab: King continues peace mission

JORDAN, led by King Hussein is shortly embarking on a new diplomatic offensive in the Arab and European countries with the purpose of bringing peace closer to the Middle East region. King Hussein will continue an endeavour of explaining the Arab World's views with regard to peace, and will continue to gather support for the idea of an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, and to establish a lasting peace. King Hussein has already visited Britain, Italy and France, and his tour has resulted in further European support for the Arab causes in general and the idea of an international conference in particular. The King's coming tour will take a similar line because Jordan is keen on ending the Middle East issue and establishing genuine peace. Jordan is also keen on ending the Gulf war and the civil strife in Lebanon. All these issues will be on the agenda of the King's talks in different countries he intends to visit. Europe has already issued a declaration in Brussels voicing support for an international conference that would end the Middle East issue and Arabs and Europeans should promote their dialogue to counter U.S.-Israeli moves in the opposite direction.

Thursday's

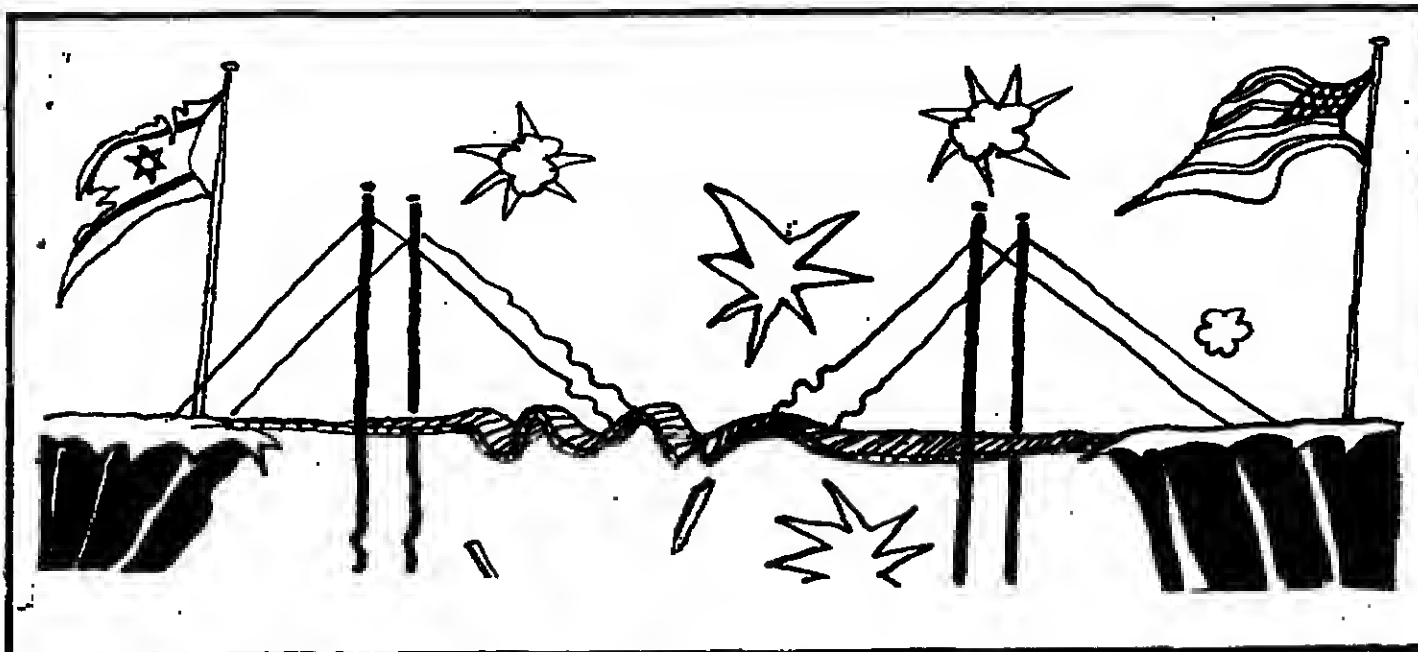
Al Ra'i: Facing Israeli propaganda

THE Israeli authorities are employing its mass media to mislead the Arabs into believing that the Soviet leadership plans to carry out a drastic change in its policy towards Soviet Jews. These media are now propagating rumours that the Soviet Union will allow large numbers of Jews to emigrate to Israel. This propaganda campaign should be handled with great caution by the Arab countries especially as they realise that the Soviets are not in reality planning such action and that Moscow continues to refuse any pre-conditions for the Soviet Union's participation in the proposed international conference. The Arab countries will have to be aware of Israel's evil intentions in this respect and realise that Israel is bent on launching such media campaigns to damage Arab-Soviet relations. At the same time the Arabs should make speedy contacts with the Soviet Union in order to ensure that such rumours are baseless and urge Moscow to declare openly that Israeli propaganda campaigns will not bring about any change in Moscow's stand vis-a-vis Middle East issues.

Al Dustour: Israel pressures the Soviets

AS diplomatic efforts continue to overcome obstacles in the way of the proposed international Middle East peace conference Israel and the Zionist movement have resorted to blackmailing certain international parties to the conference including the Soviet Union. Israel is now placing conditions for Moscow's participation in such a conference. It is demanding that the Soviet Union resume diplomatic relations with Israel and open the door for Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. But we do not believe that a superpower like the Soviet Union will succumb to such demands or accept pressure from Israel. A Zionist leader has just declared that thousands of Soviet Jews will be allowed to leave Israel, in a bid to place pressure on Moscow and force it to change its position with regard to the international conference. Of course the Soviet Union cannot sacrifice its friendly ties with the Arabs for the sake of pleasing Israel and for this reason we regard this Zionist declaration as a mere blackmail that will never achieve any result for the Jewish state. That refutes such claims is the fact that 350,000 Jews have left Israel for good after being frustrated with life in Israel. Still, we believe that the Israelis will pursue their game and their propaganda campaign for the sake of damaging Arab-Soviet relations.

U.S. insists on Israeli action in Pollard case before restoring trust



U.S. death in El Salvador raises new questions

By Carl Giamomo

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The first combat death of an American military advisor in El Salvador in a rebel attack that left at least 86 dead or wounded has brought the war there back into the spotlight and raised new questions about U.S. involvement.

The advisor, 27-year-old Sergeant Gregory Fronsus, was killed March 31 in an attack that was the biggest assault in years by leftist rebels on a Salvadoran army base.

The guerrillas said as many as 600 were killed or wounded. Salvadoran officials said 43 soldiers, including Fronsus, and nine guerrillas were killed, with 35 soldiers wounded. They said the death toll could rise.

An intelligence specialist with the army special forces, Fronsus died while defending himself in the vicinity of the regional intelligence centre at El Paraiso garrison, 35 miles north of the capital, San Salvador, according to the U.S. Defence Department.

A foreign policy advisor to a Democratic leader in Congress said the attack shows "the Reagan administration foreign policy in Central America, despite claims of victory, leaves a lot to be desired."

"The war goes on and the guerrillas are obviously able to marshal substantial forces in the face of a superior (Salvadoran) army and very sophisticated U.S. intelligence capability," said the advisor, who asked not to be identified.

But a State Department official, who also asked that his name be withheld, disagreed that the rebels showed new strength.

"They maintain the capability of doing this (attacking) from time to time (but) they can't do it with consistency," he said.

The United States has been a strong backer of El Salvador since President Reagan took office in 1981, providing more than \$500-million a year in military and economic aid.

At the start of his term, there were heated battles between Reagan and lawmakers who opposed both his penchant for military solutions and the Salvadoran government's tolerance of — and alleged participation in — right-wing death squads.

But after Jose Napoleon Duarte in 1984 became El Salvador's first democratically-elected president in 50 years, Congress joined Reagan in supporting the government. Often, El Salvador has been hailed here as a democracy success story.

In recent years, the focus of debate over U.S. Central America policy shifted almost exclusively to Nicaragua as Reagan

made support for contra rebels fighting the leftist Sandinistas in Managua the centerpiece of a worldwide campaign against what he viewed as Soviet expansionism.

The scandal over U.S. arms sales to Iran and diversion of profits to the contras has rocked Reagan's presidency and weakened support in Congress for the contra aid programme.

Whether Fronsus' death will have the same effect — either on U.S. involvement in El Salvador or Nicaragua or both — is uncertain at this point, several U.S. analysts said.

"The attack was a clear indication the war is escalating and there will be more bloodshed on the horizon," said a congressional aide. "The key question is how the American public will react to an American getting killed."

Congress, fearing the United States could be dragged into another Vietnam-type war, has long limited the number of U.S. military advisors in El Salvador to 55 and ordered that they stay out of combat.

A State Department official said that "no matter how cautious

you are, there are certain risks you assume."

But lawmakers are likely going to want to take a closer look at the kinds of risks the American forces are facing.

Another analyst, Segundo Mercado-Llorens of the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, a Washington-based group critical of Reagan's policies, said the assault exposes the disarray of Duarte's increasingly fragile government.

But Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, a staunch Reagan ally, said Fronsus' death "underscores the tragic toll of the war in Central America — a war being waged by Communist guerrillas whose inspiration, direction and support originates in Moscow and Havana and is channelled through Managua."

And he added: "This death also underscores one other fact: While the Congress of the United States debates and debates over the provision of assistance to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua, the massive aid that Moscow and Havana are shovelling into the region, with the help of the Sandinistas, continues to have deadly impact."

Trade friction threatens to unsettle Nakasone

By Linda Sieg

Reuter

TOKYO — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone may have been dealt a fatal political blow by the yen's renewed rapid rise and the threat of a trade war with the United States, political analysts have said.

The prime minister, already under fire for an unpopular tax reform plan, might be forced to resign ahead of the June economic conference of seven industrialised nations if local elections later this month go against candidates from his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), they said.

"The close relationship between Nakasone and President Ronald Reagan was an important element of Nakasone's power base," said Waseda University political science professor Mitsuru Uchida. "So the emergence of U.S. criticism damages Nakasone."

Even before the latest trade friction flared, Nakasone was encountering criticism not only from opposition parties but within his own party over his proposal to levy a sales tax.

"Many factions within the LDP are distancing themselves from Nakasone," Uchida told Reuters. "His position within the LDP itself is not so strongly estab-

lished."

Nakasone, who has been more popular with ordinary voters than with many in his party, is seeing his public support erode, the analysts said.

They said Nakasone's critics had fresh ammunition with the yen's rise to record highs — making Japanese exports less competitive — and a U.S. threat last week to impose potentially crippling tariffs on Japanese electronic goods in retaliation for Japan's alleged violation of a microchip trade pact.

"Apparently the special relationship between Reagan and Nakasone hasn't worked effectively, which makes the Japanese people doubt Nakasone's credibility," said Rei Shiratori, director of the Institute for Political Studies in Japan.

The cumulative impact of the sales tax issue, the yen rise and increasing trade friction could mean serious losses for the ruling party in the April 11 and 26 local elections, analysts said.

"If the elections go against the LDP, Nakasone may have to resign early," Shiratori said. Nakasone still has a chance to soothe U.S. tempers before or during a week-long Washington visit from April 29, some analysts said.

By Michael Battye

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Israel must bring to book all those involved in the Pollard spy case before it dispels completely the mistrust it has generated in the United States, U.S. officials say.

The officials, who declined to be identified, told Reuters the resignation from the command of a big Israeli air base of Colonel Aviem Sella, the man who recruited Eitan, was a step in the right direction.

Pollard, an American Jew, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Washington court last month for passing hundreds of secret U.S. documents to Israel.

"We want them to understand just how serious this matter is to us, to people on the Hill (in Congress), to all those who feel national security has been damaged," one official said. "Sella's resignation helps by removing a symbol."

"But in December, 1985, we entered into an understanding with the government of Israel

that it would undertake action to bring those individuals involved in the Pollard case to account. We are still waiting."

Another said: "The wounds will heal in government when we think we've got to the bottom of the affair and that's mostly up to the Israelis."

Washington was maintaining a business-as-usual attitude to Israel but conceded that hurt feelings and anger over how Israel had handled the affair had created temporary difficulties.

The officials stressed that the close U.S. relationship with Israel would not be affected. But they said Washington was not yet convinced that the recruitment of Pollard was the "rogue operation" claimed by the Israeli government.

The Justice Department is conducting its own investigation into the affair, in part to find out just what U.S. secrets Pollard gave to Israel and whether he was its only spy, the officials said.

The officials said Sella had recruited Pollard and had "handed him over to the professionals," namely veteran spy-master Rafi Eitan. Eitan was the next obvious target of Israeli investigations. He was appointed chairman of giant state-owned Israel Chemicals Company after the scandal broke, in another move that looked in Washington like a reward.

"Eitan was the manager of the show and his could be the next shoe to drop and who knows where it could end. We all know he had a very powerful sponsor," said one official.

The official declined to name Eitan's sponsor, reflecting reluctance to discuss a subject that has many senior U.S. officials here feeling deeply hurt that a friend as close as Israel could spy on Washington and then appear reluctant to apologise.

But private analysts said everyone in Israel knew Eitan was a protégé of Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"It's inconceivable that he was

acting without authority from the highest levels, at least the (army) chief of staff and probably the minister of defence," said Judith Kipper of the Brookings Institution.

"I think what is making people here so mad is that they are stonewalling. If they'd say, 'Well, we got caught, we shouldn't have done it and we apologise,' I'm sure everyone would say, O.K.," she said.

"After all, everybody does it. Their problem is that they got caught, not that they did it."

The officials privately expressed some scepticism over whether the Israeli investigations would succeed in finding the truth, in part because they lacked the legal powers to oblige officials to give testimony.

But Kipper, a leading Middle East analyst, was willing to give Israel the benefit of the doubt. "They've done thorough investigations before and we have no reason to think they won't do the same again," she said.

Jim Phillips, top Middle East analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank reputed to have considerable influence at the White House, said the effect of the scandal would be most noticeable in Congress.

"It does affect the climate on Capitol Hill. People are less likely to push real hard on controversial things," he said.

Israel this year will get more than \$3 billion in U.S. aid. No one believes that will be affected.

Some officials said the most lasting effect of the affair could be on American Jews, many of whose leaders have gone to Israel to renege on the government.

"The fact is they have made the Jewish community (in the United States) vulnerable," said one official in reference to the often asked question of where a Jew's first loyalty lies.

"If they had only recruited a non-Jewish American, things wouldn't be half so bad," he said.

XEROX IN JORDAN

Keeping You In The Picture



AMMAN — One of the world's top ranked companies, Xerox Corporation — the leading name in photo-copying and office systems — which introduced the world's first plain paper copier more than twenty five years ago, has just been launched in Jordan by Sukhtian & Yahya Electronics Company. The launch was attended by His Excellency, The Minister Of Communications, Mr. Muhyye Al Deen Al Hussein, accompanied by a large number of senior officials from both Public and Private Sectors as well as the Diplomatic Circle.

The guests were received by the General Manager Mr. Fayed El-Yahye, The President of Xerox Middle East and North Africa Operations Mr. Robert E. Trimmer praised in his opening speech, "The remarkable leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and the stable political and economic progress achieved by his government in Jordan."

The guests were very impressed with both the high quality and large range of Xerox equipment on display, including photo-copiers, facsimile machines, electronic typewriters and the new plain paper engineering drawing copier.

The Xerox process (Xerography) inspired the world copier industry which is currently estimated at being worth over \$27 billions, and it would be hard to imagine an office without a photo-copier, such was the effect of Xerox's reputation for excellence, reliability, productivity and customer satisfaction continues. Now, Xerox is set to bring that same reputation to the Jordanian market-place, by introducing state-of-the-art equipment supported by highly trained service personnel. Xerox is one of the few companies that can quote on an actual cost-per-copy basis to give customers greater budgeting control over their expenditure.

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The Xerox office and showroom are located at the Sukhtian & Yahya Electronics Company, Gardens Street, P.O. Box 925301 — Amman. Tel. 605473.

سكوتيا والياهو

Ancient adobe offers hope for housing crisis

My Mercer Cross
National Geographic

SKY CITY, New Mexico — Brick by adobe brick, Acoma Indian workmen are rebuilding 400-year-old apartments in their ancestral pueblo atop an isolated 367-foot mesa.

Since the work began in 1982, about 100 units have been completed, says supervisor Dennis Vallo. He hopes the restored two- and three-story buildings will induce more Acoma to return to Sky City.

All roots of the world Acoma denote "a place that always was," writes historian Alan Minge. The people claim that their mesa-top home about 60 miles west of Albuquerque is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the United States. Minge says they've been there for at least 1,000 years — possibly much longer — and archaeologists agree that Acoma Pueblo has been occupied at least since A.D. 1200.



Holding an adobe brick, Dennis Vallo stands next to one of the 400-year-old apartments being rebuilt at Sky City, N.M., ancient pueblo home of the Acoma Indians. Although adobe is one of the oldest building materials, dating back 10,000 years, it still houses more than half of the world's people.

Learned from Spanish

The enduring technique of making adobe bricks in molds was introduced to the Acoma by Spanish conquistadores in the mid-1500s. Only 50 or so Acoma now live year-round in the pueblo. Their determination to preserve their ancient traditions means that they lack such amenities as electricity and running water.

Their adviser on the restoration is a white man from Albuquerque, Paul Graham McHenry Jr., an architect and builder who specializes in adobe construction and sees adobe as a solution to many of the Third World's increasingly urgent housing problems.

"The worldwide energy crisis, particularly in developing nations, must lead to the utilisation of earth as a building material to meet ever-increasing needs," McHenry wrote in a paper presented in Ankara, Turkey, last summer. "We have no other choice."

McHenry, author of several books on adobe and other earthen buildings, notes that more than half of the world's people

Examples worldwide

The well-travelled Carlson lists widespread examples of earthen buildings: Grenoble, France, site of active training and research in such construction; China, where more than 30 million people dwell in caves; Colombia, where volcanic soil is proving to be an ideal material for pressed brick; and numerous other areas.

Carlson pegs much of his hope to a 55-year-old process, developed in California, to mass-produce "stabilised" bricks, waterproof and erosion-resistant, by mixing mud with an asphalt emulsion. Building with earth "has the potential for catching on," he says.

McHenry views it as "an uphill battle," partly because of adobe's "split image of either poverty or great affluence."

Traditionally, earthen buildings have provided shelter for the world's neediest people. In the southwestern United States, adobe provided an inexpensive answer to housing needs for generations. Only in the past few decades has it become, in Carlson's words, a "chic and aesthetic building material."

Do-it-yourself adobe

In a homemade adobe house in

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. April 4, 1987

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Dad's Army

10:20 Feature Film

Sun. — April 5, 1987

8:30 Comedy Series

Growing Pains

Starring: Alan Thicke, Joanne Kerns



Shirley MacLaine "reincarnates" herself in Out On A Limb, Monday at 10:20

After 15 years as a housewife, Maggie decides to return to the workforce as a local newspaper reporter. Her husband Jason, a psychiatrist, moves his practice into their home so that he can be more involved in raising their three children. The couple's differing points of view on how to bring up their kids lead to some very funny situations and "growing pains".

Different Documentaries

Acid Rain

The film provides a unique update of the latest scientific evidence on the causes of acid rain and graphic reports from Scandinavia and Holland illustrate its damaging effects on wildlife, and the environment in general. In order to reduce acid rain, these countries have taken stringent measures to cut down emissions from factories and power stations. However, their efforts are being seriously undermined by the reluctance of the United Kingdom — the largest contributor to acid rain in Western Europe, to take similar action, even though the U.K. is also affected.

10:20 Out On A Limb

"To get to the fruit of the tree, you have to go out on a limb." It begins rather quietly, as Shirley MacLaine muses on a deserted California beach. It climaxes on a soaring, craggy peak in South America, where she finds her past, her present and perhaps, her future. Though perceived as "having it all" — a fulfilling love life, wealth, fame and a legendary career — Shirley felt something was missing: A purpose, a direction, a meaning to her life. As the presence of three people begins to make an impact and propel her toward the answers she seeks, Shirley starts a spiritual journey toward finding herself through the world of reincarnation.

Tue. — April 7, 1987

8:30 You Again

9:30 Drama Series

Yesterday's Dreams

9:10 The Last Frontier

Australia's Great Outback unleashes its hard reality against Kate Hannon (Linda Evans), an American woman anxious to carve out a new life for herself and her family. Instead she is swept into a deadly land struggle with her powerful neighbour Ed Stenning (Jason Robards) and an impassioned romance with his renegade son Nick (Jack Thompson).

Mon. — April 6, 1987

8:30 Ever Decreasing Circles

The ubiquitous and perennially popular Richard Briers is the man destined to spend his life whirling round in hilarious "Ever Decreasing Circles". Top comedy writers John Esmonde and Bob Larbey have come up with another seven-part series in which the do-it-yourself-obsessed Martin continues to drive those around him to complete distraction. But Martin sees himself as a man of destiny, a pillar of the community with a finger in every pie and a ton of organisational weight on his creaking shoulders. Richard Briers plays him to perfection.

10:20 Feature Film

Fri. — April 10, 1987

8:30 The Cosby Show

Starring: Bill Cosby, Phylicia Ayers-Allen, Lisa Bonet, Malcolm Jamal Warner, Tempestt Bledsoe, Keshia Knight Pulliam

10:20 Robbery Under Arms

Sam Neill stars as Captain Starlight, renegade English nobleman, pursuing a notorious career of robbery under arms with the young Marston brothers.

9:10 Doc. — Gentle Way With Cancer

and after that a new Doc.

In Search Of The Trojan War

The tale of Troy has gripped imaginations for nearly 3,000 years. This series of six programmes, filmed in locations that include Greece, Turkey and Berlin, is an historical detective story. It attempts to discover whether the events and people of the Trojan War — as described by Homer — are true, or simply myth. It examines the question of whether the abduction of a woman — Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world — could have led to a war lasting 10 years.

10:20 Documentary

The Unknown War

11:00 Bergerac

June Bergerac continues his running battle with the criminal world which Jersey seems to attract. He finds himself in conflict with the newly promoted Inspector Barney Crozier, and is once again dismayed by the machinations of his ex-father-in-law, the ever popular Charlie Hungeford. The familiar ingredients Barge and now owner of a chic new night club Deborah, Bergerac's long-suffering ex-wife and of course Jersey itself, undoubtedly one of the series' principal attractions.

10:20 The Last Convertible

Starring: Perry King, Bruce Boxleitner, John Shea

Based on Antony Myer's best-selling novel, this 6-hour dramatisation tells the story of five members of Harvard's class of '44... Their lives and loves, as we follow them through World War II and into the disillusionment of the post-war era.

Wed. — April 8, 1987

8:30 Three's A Crowd

Three's A Crowd is the follow-up to the popular American comedy series Three's Company, and is loosely based on the long-running British success, Robin's Nest. John Ritter plays restaurant owner Jack who lives with his girlfriend Vicky, an air hostess.

8:30 Me And My Girl

Starring: Richard O'Sullivan

A young widower's attempts to raise his teenage daughter, run a business and conduct a private life lead to much hilarity.

Soweto: Monument to apartheid

By Jonathan Fryer

SOWETO, South Africa — Soweto is southern Africa's largest city, though to look at it with its sordid ranks of single-story dwellings and almost treeless landscape, you would not realise. Overshadowed architecturally, financially and commercially by nearby Johannesburg, Soweto is a huge black community that the present government would like to be able to forget.

Indeed, as part of its platform in the May whites-only parliamentary elections, the ruling National Party has resuscitated the extraordinary idea that Soweto be made an independent city-state — a medieval concept which would allow the central authorities to wash their hands of responsibility for what is turning into a political and environmental time-bomb.

Officially, Soweto has a population of around one and a half million — which averages out at about 12 to a house. But the army unit that is stationed in the area to help maintain security under the current state of emergency says that the figure is over two-and-a-half million, and heading for three million fast.

Though a high birth rate is an important factor in that growth, the main reason for the rapid increase in Soweto's inhabitants is the greater freedom of movement for South Africa's blacks, since the scrapping of some of the country's more pernicious "pass-book" and "Influx Control" laws. Soweto is a natural magnet for migrants as it is one of the few places in that part of the Transvaal where black people are allowed to live.

However much President Pieter W. Botha may claim that apartheid is outmoded and dying out, the Group Areas Act, which controls where people of each race may or may not live, is still very much a reality.

As South Africa is experiencing the common African — indeed, Third World — phenomenon of migration towards the cities, hundreds of thousands of rural blacks have been pouring into townships like Soweto, putting terrible strains on facilities. Planners hoped they could ease the problems of Soweto by getting permission for another black township to be built near Johannesburg — where most employed blacks work — to be called Norweto. But nearby white residents,

fearful for their property values, have managed to get the plans shelved.

The evidence of the consequent overcrowding in Soweto, and its associated health and social problems, is easy to see. There is no suitable land left for building in the permitted black zone, so shacks and other makeshift homes have appeared in the tiny back gardens of people's houses, as they try to accommodate relatives and friends coming in from the countryside.

Bits of wasteland have become squatter camps, housing thousands of people who have built huts and shelters with whatever they can lay their hands on. Initially, the authorities tried to knock down such settlements, but now they have given up, and instead attempt to provide basic infrastructure like water-pipes, chemical toilets and a refuse collection service.

In the past two years, the formerly neat, clean streets of Soweto as a whole have become littered and insanitary, partly because of a breakdown in public services in the wake of political unrest.

Local black councillors, rejected by radicals as being stooges of the white central government, have become fearful for their lives and have moved into fortified accommodation — even more remote than ever from the people they are meant to be serving.

Typical of their attitude is the condemnation of the Mayor, Nelson Botile, who complained to the magazine *pace*: "People here are ungrateful. Instead of thanking the poor mayor and councillors for helping them, they call you names." He summarised the residents of Orlando, one of the sectors of Soweto, by saying: "They are always drunk and spend their lives in shebeens (drinking houses)".

Local and provincial health authorities are determined that the collapse of effective local government must not lead to an epidemic or similar emergency. They have built up a network of neighbourhood clinics, where dedicated staff — of all races — battle against diseases more commonly associated with impoverished rural areas, rather than the environs of a sophisticated modern city like Johannesburg.

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1000 walk for charity

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A melange of people of different ages, sizes and nationalities crowded onto the grounds of the Plaza Hotel an hour and a half before the scheduled start of the Amman leg of the Charity March across Jordan.

Group leaders struggled through the throngs of people to reach the registration tables in order to turn in their group sponsorship sheet forms. Volunteers and members of the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients, tried frantically to keep the papers of the 45 groups organised and to calculate an estimate of the amount raised.

Organisers, speaking through loudspeakers, called on the order of departure, each group leaving a few minutes apart, beginning at 9:00.

Drums rattled and bagpipes played as the three main walkers — Vicki Dakessian, 26, Ali Pharoan, 28, and Halim Abu Rahmeh, 29 — led an estimated 1000 walkers through the Amman stage. "This large a turnout was not expected, but was very welcomed," said Her Royal Highness Princess Majida, head of the society.

Many families joined in, with small children riding on their fathers' shoulders or pushed in baby carriages. Nuns dooed their tennis shoes, while school-children carried radios blaring music to entertain the walkers. Others were oblivious to the commotion around them as they slipped into the bliss of their own world, thanks to their portable "Walkman". Even dogs were involved as they were taken for an extra long walk.

Off to a brisk start, the walkers crowded the streets, taking up one lane on the road from the Plaza Hotel to the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Circles. However, the crowds thinned out on the road to the Gateway Hotel.

Walkers were accompanied the entire distance by an ambulance, police, and a bus, from Al Ahliyyah girls school, used to ferry back tired participants. Every three kilometres, a station was set up, offering chips and peanuts, provided by the Plaza Hotel, and water, provided by Safa. Some of the last walkers reached the stations after they had run out of supplies.

Two of the stragglers relayed their experiences to the Jordan Times. Reem and Dana, after covering 17 kilometres, began feeling pangs of hunger, which increased markedly by as they passed two stations, only to find there was no food. "It was 2:00 and we began hallucinating; a chubby child which appeared in front of us began to look appetising. Like a miracle, a van with pack lunches came and asked if we wanted food," they said, laughing.

All the walkers were provided launches from Plaza Hotel and pizza from Pizza Hut at the 24 kilometre station. At this point, participants rested under tents which were set up on Mr. Hamarneh's farm, off of the Madaba exit on Airport Road. Although 80 per cent of the participants, according to Reem Najjar one of the coordinators of the walk, made it to this point, a large number dropped out thereafter. The Spanish ambassador, Mr. Emilio Menendez del Valle explained why he did not stop. "If I did, I was afraid I would feel so tired that I would not continue." Apparently, many proved Mr. Del Valle's theory.

Hiyam Mansour was one who

did not stop for lunch either, and arrived at the Gateway Hotel at 2:05, the first of the walkers. Two hours earlier at 11:38, the first runner of the Hash House Harriers, Manfred Cizek arrived. He covered the distance in 2 hours, 58 minutes; six other runners of the Harriers arrived before 12:30.

Abdel Noor, 14 years old, was the first child to finish the 37 kilometres, "nnt feeling too tired"; Victor Gibran Petrol, a five-year-old, finished an hour after him at 3:35. By around 6:00 p.m., the last of the estimated 200 finishers came in.

The primary motivations for most walkers who talked to the Jordan Times was for both charity and exercise. One woman would not even stop after medics in the ambulance bandaged both her feet. Walking without shoes, she said: "This is more comfortable."

High spirits and favourable weather was present throughout the walk. Friends and family members encouraged walkers. Princess Majida noted at the finish: "Some of the walkers looked as though they were about to collapse but they did not stop."

A thirteen-year-old from the Queen Alia Centre for the Deaf, Sana'a, led by her sister, managed to complete 24 kilometres.

His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd said he joined the walk to support the society both morally and financially. Other royal family members who participated were: Their Royal Highnesses Princesses Hamzah and Hashem, and Princesses Haya, Iman and Raya (in a baby carriage).

All participants noted the importance of people helping people. As one walker Olga put it: "Walking makes me feel great, but contributing to a good cause makes me feel wonderful."

Although the walk ended for most on Friday, Vicki and Ali still have 301 kilometres ahead of them. At Qatran, they will be rejoined by Halim.

Spanish season moves to climax

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid's chances of clinching the European Cup and Spanish League title received a setback when striker Emilio Butragueno was injured in the European Championship qualifying win over Austria.

Butragueno twisted his left

ankle after a tackle from Austrian captain Bruno Pezzey in the first minute of the 3-2 victory in Vienna and will miss Real's game today at Espanol, the only side unbeaten at home this season.

More importantly, he is extremely doubtful for the European Cup semifinal first leg next

Wednesday. So Real may go to Bayern Munich without all three first-choice strikers — Argentine Jorge Valdano has hepatitis and Mexican Hugo Sanchez is suspended.

This weekend marks the final round of the regular season before the 18-team First Division splits into three groups, with the six teams in each playing each other home and away.

The top six will decide the league title and UEFA Cup places and the bottom six the relegation places. With points from the mini-leagues added to points already accrued, the championship looks like the same old two-horse race.

European championship roundup

Claesen scores 3; England, Spain win

LONDON (AP) — Nico Claesen, who cannot command a regular place in Tottenham Hotspur's English First Division soccer side, bagged three goals as World Cup semifinalist Belgium nipped Scotland 4-1 in their European Championship qualifying game.

Claesen's club-mate Chris Waddle, one of three Tottenham players in England's midfield against Northern Ireland, also was on the mark as the Group Four favourite maintained its supremacy over its neighbour with a 2-0 victory in Belfast.

Liverpool's goal-grabber Ian Rush, who is bound four Italy's Juventus next season, ootched Wales' first goal in a 4-0 victory over Finland in Group Six, while Spain posted a 3-2 victory over Austria in Vienna and Bulgaria edged the Irish Republic 2-1 in another Group Seven game on Wednesday night.

Claesen scored in the eighth, 55th and 85th minutes and assisted in Frankie Vercauteren's 75th minute strike as Scotland was swept aside in Anderlecht's Constant Vanden Stock Stadium in Brussels.

It was the first time a British team had returned to the Belgian capital since the 1985 Heysel Stadium tragedy in which 39 people died as a result of a riot caused mainly by English fans at the Liverpool-Juventus European Champions' Cup final.

A small number of Scotland's "Tartan Army" of fans made it to

the game but no incidents were reported. All they had to cheer was Paul McStay's 13th minute equalising header.

Claesen, who has spent much of the season on the Tottenham substitute's bench, said he was "supermotivated" for the game after being repeatedly left off the Tottenham side.

"I was very glad I again was able to prove I can play soccer," the striker said.

Waddle scored England's second goal three minutes before half time as the Group Four favourite cantered to victory over Northern Ireland at Windsor Park.

The result meant the home side has not scored against England for seven years. Northern Ireland also remained goalless in three Group Four games and England took its goal tally from its three victories to 7-0.

England's captain, Bryan Robson, provided proof he is returning to his best form after a two-year injury nightmare. The 29-year-old midfielder headed England's first goal in the 19th minute and showed much of his old confidence and organising ability.

The match began amid reports of a car bomb explosion near the ground and England's manager, Bobby Robson (no relation), cut short his post-match news conference after being repeatedly questioned about the incident.

"I'm a football (soccer) manager, not a bomb disposal expert," the manager snapped.

Australia struggles against Pakistan in Sharjah Cup

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — David Boon and Simon O'Donnell saved Australia from total collapse as they struggled to make 176 for nine against Pakistan in 50 overs in the Sharjah Cup cricket tournament.

A shocking start saw Australia slump to eight for three before a fourth wicket stand between Boon and O'Donnell produced 114 invaluable runs. But the later batsmen failed miserably and left Pakistan a modest total to chase.

The Pakistan attack was without speedster Salim Jaffer who failed a fitness test. Skipper Imran Khan had already decided to miss the opening match for personal reasons and his place as captain was taken by Javed Miandad.

Miandad asked the Australians to bat when he won the toss and his new opening bowlers, Manzoor Elahi and Wasim Akram, immediately struck with a vengeance.

Akram dealt the first blow when he bowled Mike Velatta in

the opening over for a duck. Manzoor then removed Geoff Marsh and Australian skipper Alan Border with the help of smart catches behind the stumps by Salim Yousuf.

Boon and O'Donnell survived several testing overs but battled with confidence when the spinners and Mudassar Nazar were pressed into the attack.

O'Donnell, the more aggressive of the two, slammed two sixes and two fours in his 54 while Boon struck a six and six fours in his 71.

Wilander advances in Milan tennis

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Sweden's Mats Wilander, playing unusually aggressive tennis, trounced Spaniard Emilio Sanchez 6-3, 6-1, Friday and gained a semifinal berth against second-seeded Miloslav Mecir in the \$345,000 Fila Trophy indoor tournament.

Wilander, seeded third in the competition at Milan's Palatrussardi Tennis Theater, went to the net often to follow up his well-placed shots to the baseline.

Rush began Wales' goal-rush at Wrexham by scoring in the seventh minute. Scorer of 33 domestic league and cup goals for Liverpool this season, he also had a hand in Wales' second, scored by Glyn Hodges.

David Phillips added a third and Andy Jones, who plays for English Third Division side Port Vale, scored the fourth on his international debut.

In the seven-year reign of manager Mike England, Wales now has not lost in ten matches at the Racecourse Ground.

Francisco Jose Carrasco scored a last-minute winner for Spain, which maintained its 100 per cent record in Group One.

Two goals by Eloy Olaya — substitute for Emilio Butragueno — in the 31st and 58th minutes were cancelled out by Manfred Linzmaier (39) and Toni Polster (64), but Carrasco's late break-away strike sealed victory for the Spaniards.

Spain's victory was marred by the 77th minute expulsion of defender Chendo for repeated fouls.

A late penalty by Luchezar Tanev in Sofia lifted Bulgaria into second place behind Belgium in Group Seven.

Anyo Sadkov fired the home side ahead in the 41st minute, only for Frank Stapleton to level seven minutes after half time.

The Irish were hanging on to a draw until Nasko Sirakov was upended in the penalty area and Tanev beat goalkeeper Pat Bonner from the spot.

U.S. official predicts East will participate in Olympics

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. Olympic official said it appeared the Soviet Union and East Bloc countries would participate in the 1988 Summer Olympics in South Korea even if North Korea did not.

Robert Helmick, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said in a television interview that this was the best information this week when he met International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Helmick said he hoped that North Korea would accept an offer to host several Olympic events.

He said the Soviet Union and East Germany had changed past statements that they would consider not participating in the Olympics if North Korea did not.

"They've changed their statements to state that they support North Korea's request for events but in fact they are nevertheless preparing to participate anyway," he said.

Tracer beats Maccabi in Euro basketball cup

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Robert Premier and Bob McAdoo teamed up to lead Italian club Tracer Milan in beating Maccabi Tel-Aviv of Israel by 71-69 (halftime: 33-36) to clinch the men's European Championship Clubs Cup.

About 10,500 fans, attended the physical see-saw match at Malley Sport Centre.

It was the second-over title for Tracer Milan, and its first in 21 years.

Tracer Milan, coached by American Bob Peterson, played a tight 1-3-1 defence, which Maccabi Tel-Aviv failed to break, dashing its hopes for a third title in 10 years.

Maccabi, coached by Avi Sherf, trailed most of the first half, but caught up in the last three minutes of the first period to lead 36-33 at the break, only to fall back quickly to 49-45 in the second half as the Italian team overpowered it.

With Tracer Milan leading 69-67 in the final two minutes, Italian Mike D'Antonio, who scored a total of seven points, fouled out

protesting angrily at the call. But a few seconds later, McAdoo sunk two penalty shots to boost the lead to 71-67 and clinch the Italian's victory.

Two late points by Kevin Magee were not enough to save Maccabi's dream as a long-shot by Jamchy at the buzzer missed.

Referees were Stavros Douris (Greece) and Wieslaw Zych (Poland).

Fans celebrate

In Milan, hundreds of jubilant basketball fans waving flags and blowing trumpets invaded the centre of the city late Thursday night after Tracer Milan's victory.

The fans rushed into the city centre in long processions of cars immediately after watching the nailbiting 71-69 victory in Lausanne on television.

The area around Milan's famous gothic cathedral was blocked by queues of cars in the kind of celebration normally reserved in Italy for major soccer victories.

No incidents were reported.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jordan, UAE draw in Olympic match

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan drew with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 1-1 in an Olympic West Asian soccer qualifying match held at Amman Stadium on Friday. After a scoreless first half, UAE's Ali Thani opened the scoring in the 48th minute. Jordan's Abdul Karim Shadafan equalised in the 83rd minute. Jordan will play the away game of the tie with the UAE team next Friday at Abu Dhabi.

Heysel cup final referee quits

ZURICH (R) — Andre Daina of Switzerland, who refereed the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in Brussels' Heysel Stadium in which 39 people died in pre-match riots, has quit football. The Swiss Football League's chief referee Rudolf Scheurer said Friday that Daina had made his decision before last Wednesday's European Championship tie between Austria and Spain in Vienna which the 47-year-old Swiss was to have handled. Daina, who was replaced by colleague Bruno Galler in Vienna, offered no explanation. A Geneva chemical engineer, Daina officiated at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico and the 1984 European Championships in France.

Bermuda shocks Mexico in Olympic soccer

HAMILTON, Bermuda (R) — Tiny Bermuda sprang a 2-1 shock win over Mexico in the first leg of their Olympic Games soccer qualifying tie. A battling second-half performance by the young Bermuda team saw it wipe out a sixth-minute own goal by Eduardo de la Torre. Bermuda finally drew level with 15 minutes left when Sergio Lugo netted an own goal at the corner. The winner came four minutes into injury time, substitute Cleve Wade hitting a low shot through a crowd of players from six metres. The teams meet in the second leg in Toluca, Mexico on May 16.

'It's a girl' for Maradona

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona became a father when his long-time companion Claudia Villafane gave birth to a daughter. A hospital spokesman said the baby had been named Dalma Maradona. The mother was reported in good condition following the birth, at the Clinica del Sol in Buenos Aires. Maradona, whose team Napoli is struggling to win a league championship for the first time in its history, is currently in Italy. He sent Villafane a large bouquet of flowers, the hospital spokesman said.

Duesseldorf sacks trainer after loss

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — West German First Division soccer club Fortuna Duesseldorf sacked trainer Dieter Brei following its 3-0 cup semifinal defeat by Second Division Stuttgart Kicker. Club Vice-President Werner Fassbender, noting that Fortuna was also deep in the relegation zone, said Brei appeared to have lost the confidence of his players. Brei told reporters he accepted responsibility for his own actions but not for the club's transfer policy which had seen Fortuna sell its best players in recent years. He is the fourth trainer to part company with a First Division club this season. Fritz Fuchs of FC Homburg, Georg Kessler of Cologne and Dietrich Weise of Eintracht Frankfurt being the others.

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S.A.S.

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Cinema Tel: 625153

RAINBOW

THE MONEY PIT

Performances: 3:15, 6:30, 8:15, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573

OPERA

MAIN BALWAAN

Performances: 12:00, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

RUNNING SCARED

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

SHAWLEEN DEFIES NINGA

Performances: 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 8:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One sterling	1.6085/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3060/65	Canadian dollar
	1.8158/65	West German marks
	2.0490/000	Dutch guilders
	1.5145/55	Swiss francs
	37.58/61	Belgian francs
	6.0350/040	French francs
	1293/1294	Italian lire
	146.00/10	Japanese yen
	6.3350/3400	Swedish crowns
	6.8100/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.8600/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	418.30/80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were near their lows late in the session as continuing fears of a possible trade war with Japan undermined sentiment. By 1412 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 35.4 to 1,952.3 after a mid-afternoon low of 1,951.2.

Friday's account end triggered profit-taking as did the end of fiscal year but the main worry was the U.K.'s statement on Thursday that it was prepared to retaliate against Japanese banking and insurance firms over the U.K./Japan trade imbalance.

Britain said it would use tough powers against Japanese institutions on the grounds that similar U.K. firms do not enjoy the same access to Japan's financial markets.

The FTSE 100 index has come down by around 96 points since last Friday's close, but a shakeout was seen as almost inevitable after the sharp gains seen since the new year.

Dealers said, however, that while a trade war with Japan would do major damage to British markets many operators are doubtful that either the U.K. or the Japanese governments will allow such a conflict to break out.

Cable and Wireless, which dealers said is at the eye of the current Japanese trade storm, was down 5p at 371. Cable is currently having difficulties in obtaining a major stake in a new Japanese telecommunications company.

U.N. official warns of economic hardships facing West Asians

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — A U.N. official has warned here that the difficult and complicated economic conditions facing West Asian nations could impede their development.

Dr. Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) was speaking at the opening of the agency's 14th annual meeting.

He said such a situation,

fraught with political and economic changes, necessitated a review of development strategies and priorities in the region and constituted a challenge to the U.N. body in extending aid to its member countries.

The expert-level meeting is to be followed later in the week by a ministerial session on issues of importance to West Asia, including the economic impact of workers returning to labour-exporting countries in their region.

Delegates will also consider a draft medium-term plan for 1990-95, the financial status of ESCWA programmes, its activities in supporting economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and its regional advisory services.

In addition to ministers from ESCWA member states, the conference is being attended by representatives of Arab regional organisations, non-governmental bodies and U.N. agencies.

United Gulf Bank returns to profit

BAHRAIN (R) — United Gulf Bank said Thursday it returned to the black last year, reporting net profit of \$6 million after a loss of \$10 million in 1985.

The Bahrain-based bank, which had to make heavy loan loss provisions for 1985 and has cut back sharply its commercial banking activities, said it would make its first dividend payment to shareholders since 1983.

"Our year-end results presented a very pleasing picture," Managing Director Mahmoud Al Nouri said in a statement.

"They are a vindication of our policy of developing investment banking and direct investment activities while considerably reducing commercial banking," he added.

The bank said 1986's improved results were due to higher returns from investment banking, a sharp decline in operating expenses and lower provisions.

Provisions for loans and writedown of investments fell to \$8.4 million from \$14.4 million in 1985. The bank said total loan

loss provisions were now 23.8 million, 13 per cent of all loans and 56 per cent of non-performing loans.

The bank's recommended dividend will be five per cent per share or the equivalent of \$10 million. It will be met from earnings and reserves.

The bank was one of five smaller Bahrain institutions involved in merger talks in late 1985 although these eventually fell through.

Egypt proposes \$4b projects to Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Egypt has proposed that Kuwait investors implement 40 projects costing \$4 billion in the North African Arab nation.

Mr. Mohamed Al Ghareeb, deputy director of Egypt's Public Authority for Investment, made the announcement at a news conference held Wednesday at the conclusion of a four-day meeting of the joint Kuwait-Egyptian commission which is charged with promoting Kuwaiti investment in Egypt.

A statement issued by the commission said representatives for the public and private sectors in

the two countries agreed to set up "a holding company" to launch investment activities "within the constraints of the Egyptian laws."

Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Al Al Saqr, chairman of Kuwait's chamber of commerce and industry, said the two sides agreed to decide on the capital later.

"The proposed 40 ventures, which were accompanied by feasibility studies, cover industrial, agricultural and tourism fields," Sheikh Al Saqr said.

The statement said the Kuwaiti team on the commission "expressed satisfaction over Egyptian assurances that a new invest-

ment law to be enacted shortly will give more freedom of movement to foreign capital invested in Egypt."

Kuwaiti interest in investment projects in Egypt grew after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's participation in an Islamic summit conference in Kuwait in January, ending officially an eight-year Arab boycott of Egypt.

Most of the Arab countries severed relations with Cairo after the late president Anwar Sadat signed a U.S.-sponsored peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Banks put Brazil loans on cash basis

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Three U.S. bank holding companies have placed about \$4.6 billion in Brazilian loans on non-accrual status, cutting into their first-quarter profits and signalling they expect protracted debt negotiations with the country.

A number of major U.S. banking companies have said in past weeks they were considering taking similar action, following Brazil's unilateral suspension of payments on about \$70 billion in foreign bank debt in February.

But the announcements on Thursday marked the first of an expected series of similar moves by other bankers.

BankAmerica Corp., the nation's second-biggest banking company, said it was placing \$1.9 billion in medium and long-term Brazilian loans on non-accrual status. The San Francisco-based company did the same with about \$180 million in loans to Ecuador, which is suffering from the effects of last month's severe earthquake.

J.P. Morgan and Co. Inc., the fourth-largest bank holding company, said it placed \$1.3 billion in Brazilian credit on non-accrual status. No. 5 Manufacturers Hanover said it did the same with \$1.4 billion in loans to Brazil.

Banks generally place loans on a non-accrual, or cash, basis when payments fall delinquent for 90 days or longer. When that happens, payments are recorded as they actually are received, rather than when they are due. Thus the three companies will have to subtract from their first-quarter earnings interest previously recorded but not actually received.

Although the 90 days has not yet expired for much of the credit covered by Thursday's announcements, the banks said there was a possibility the time limit would be reached before Brazil renegotiated a debt refinancing with the banks.

"Negotiations will be complicated and lengthy, but we continue to expect that a resched-

uling agreement will be completed this year," said Mr. A.W. Clausen, BankAmerica chairman and chief executive. "For the interim period, however, we concluded that the responsible procedure would be to record income only as we receive payments on these loans."

All of the institutions stated they expected to reach a debt restructuring agreement with Brazil, and expected the suspended interest payments to resume at some point.

Negotiations are to resume in New York on April 10, the committee representing creditor banks worldwide said Wednesday.

The banks' moves were expected to have the most severe impact on BankAmerica, which last year had a net loss of \$518 million. Mr. Clausen has said BankAmerica would post an operating profit this year, and still expected to do so.

First Saudi insurance firm abides by Islamic teachings

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — It may seem strange in arid Saudi Arabia, but flood damages are expected to be the most frequent cause for claims against the kingdom's first national insurance company, a newspaper reported Thursday.

"Contractors risk damage to machinery from rain," Mr. Mousa Al Rubaia, general manager of the National Company for Cooperative Insurance (NCCI), told the English-language newspaper Arab News.

"And if the contractors are in the wadis, the flash floods are severe," he told the Saudi newspaper. Wadis are desert valleys that can turn into torrents when it rains.

Construction activities abound in the oil-rich kingdom, where petrodollars are funnelled into diversified economic and social development programmes.

"Fires are the second-worst here," he said.

"But because Saudis usually don't go to court for damages as the litigious Americans do, insurance rates in the kingdom are one of the lowest in the world," he said.

The NCCI, which began operations late last year, is the kingdom's first official insurance firm and its strength lies in the fact it

will write Islamic insurance. Sheikh Al Rubaia, in an interview with the AP, cited rulings by the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference council on religious edicts, which has said that insurance can be considered Islamic. Life insurance is not acceptable, however.

Islamic scholars say that if insurance simply seeks to avoid the consequences of God's will, then it is un-Islamic. Life insurance falls under this category.

If instead, it seeks simply to spread the risk of disaster to make it more bearable, then it is permissible because it does not seek to avoid the consequences of God's actions.

Sheikh Al Rubaia said NCCI's insurance system is Islamic because of the cooperative sharing of risk by policy holders. "This is close to mutual support, and is acceptable to our senior ulama" or Islamic scholars, he said.

The new firm, formally approved by the ministry of commerce last month, is located at the Riyadh headquarters of Saudi Investment Bank. It will open offices in the Red Sea port of Jeddah and the Eastern Province capital of Dammam by the end of the year.

The company, which has authorised capital up to 500 million riyals (\$133 million), has taken an increase in capital up to 250 million riyals (\$66.6 million), Sheikh Al Rubaia said.

The company is owned 50 per cent by the Public Investment Fund, 25 per cent by the General Organisation for Social Insurance and 25 per cent by the Retirement Pension Agency, all government agencies.

So far, the company has been taking business from large government-owned organisations, such as Saudi Basic Industries Corp. and the grain silos and flour mills organisations.

The kingdom's insurance market is large and crowded with many firms, but NCCI is the first national firm. They compete for an estimated \$300 million to \$1 billion worth of business a year. The company hopes to gain five per cent of the market in its first year and 10 per cent in the second year.

U.S. banks raise interest rates

NEW YORK (AP) — Major U.S. commercial banks are raising their prime lending rates in response to broad financial pressures that signal interest rates have bottomed out for the near term on loans, analysts said Thursday.

Several of the nation's biggest banks increased their prime lending rate to 7.75 per cent from 7.5 per cent Thursday, following the previous day's increases by New York's Citibank and Chase Manhattan Bank.

The prime — a benchmark used to set interest on a variety of corporate and consumer credit —

had been 7.5 per cent since Aug. 26. The jump to 7.75 per cent was the first since banks raised the prime to 13 per cent from 12.5 per cent in June 1984.

The major pressures to boost the prime rate come from prospects of higher inflation and from the rise in short-term interest rates over the past several months, which has increased the banks' cost of borrowing in the money markets.

The sharp fall of the dollar has been a major factor in the rise in short-term rates. A weak dollar

reduces the returns on dollar-denominated assets for foreign investors, who then seek to offset the drop with higher rates from banks that borrow billions in the global money markets.

"This (prime increase) is not necessarily a judgment by major banks that rates are going to go up on a sustained basis," said Mr. William Sullivan, director of money market research for Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. "It's more of a recognition of the reality of rising rates" caused by the recent instability of the dollar.

IBM introduces new personal computers

NEW YORK (R) — After months of anticipation, International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) Thursday unveiled a new generation of personal computers aimed at reestablishing the company's dominance of the field.

The four products mark IBM's first complete overhaul of its personal computer (PC) line and are seen as the most significant addition to PC ranks since IBM, the world's biggest computer company, entered the business in 1981.

IBM, though still the PC leader, has been suffering a loss of market share to a host of competitors, particularly U.S. and Asian manufacturers of low-cost imitations, or "clones" of IBM models.

The new IBM machines, which are compatible with existing IBM PCs, are spearheaded by a top-of-

the-line unit based on the Intel Corp 80386 computer chip, making it the most powerful IBM PC so far. The chip has already been used by IBM competitors.

Other members of the new generation, called Personal System/2, include an Intel 8086-based model which IBM said is up to two and a half times as fast as its IBM PC XT model.

IBM also introduced two new versions of its PC at system. These use an Intel 80286 chip running 50 per cent faster than the existing IBM PC AT.

The new personal computers can run a new operating system, called IBM DOS Version 3.3, which is now available. The company also said it will offer a second operating system, called IBM Operating System/2, developed jointly with Microsoft Corp.

Last year IBM lost an estimated 20 per cent of its shares of the PC market as PC revenues declined 17 per cent, to \$4.3 billion. Some 350 companies worldwide have copied IBM's circuitry and introduced their own low-cost PCs.

The 80386 chip can process 32 bits of information at once. The previous most powerful chip, the Intel 80286, processes 16 bits at once.

Prices of the new IBM machines range from \$1,695 for the 8086-based model 30, to \$10,995 for the top-of-the-line model 80.

The model 30 is aimed principally at the educational market, which is a stronghold of the number of two PC maker, Apple Computer Company. With the Super-Fast 80, IBM hopes to win customers among major corporations.

THE Daily Crossword By Fred Toole

ACROSS

- 1 Davidson
- 2 language
- 3 Stuff
- 4 Oblique
- 5 Sheenfield
- 6 "The Censor"
- 7 of Rome
- 8 Tabasco
- 9 Thanks — I
- 10 American
- 11 Classy
- 12 Designated
- 13 thing
- 14 waste
- 15 allowance
- 16 clips
- 17 Large farm
- 18 south of the
- 19 border
- 20 Between: prof.
- 21 Traci
- 22 Riviera resort
- 23 Expect
- 24 Perceived
- 25 wrongly
- 26 Like a docile
- 27 horse
- 28 Place of
- 29 sacrifice
- 30 Columbus'
- 31 state
- 32 Zaire river
- 33 Chari con —
- 34 At least as
- 35 much
- 36 — Harold
- 37 (Byron hero)
- 38 First train
- 39 — poly
- 40 Child's string
- 41 game
- 42 Sacred bull
- 43 Old word
- 44 Sub
- 45 Sports group
- 46 Planter
- 47 Sneezed
- 48 Actor
- 49 Dyma
- 50 Half a fly
- 51 Author
- 52 Hermann

DOWN

- 1 Powder base
- 2 La Scala song
- 3 Coin
- 4 It's clear to me
- 5 Measurement
- 6 Judicious
- 7 From — (completely)
- 8 Earl — "Hines"
- 9 Rose oil
- 10 Track tippers
- 11 Food for
- 12 How
- 13 Maine college
- 14 town
- 15 Hindu hero
- 16 Seed cover
- 17 — on past
- 18 Sneezed
- 19 Saint Philip
- 20 Sacred picture
- 21 Busy as —
- 22 Hypothesis
- 23 Problems
- 24 Eng. river
- 25 Toward the
- 26 South
- 27 Architectural
- 28 Wished
- 29 Homeric work
- 30 In re
- 31 War god
- 32 Proficient
- 33 Perform
- 34 Rap sections
- 35 Feminine ending

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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- 2 ADAM
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- 51 ADAM

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Follow your hunches in accomplishing and achieving the aims that most impel you forward. Be wary of upsetting aspects that can cause intermittent problems.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) An early start at shopping and marketing is wise, since later situations arise that could be upsetting.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have an opportunity to get your surroundings improved. Get your budget in shape for a greater abundance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are full of ambition and can accomplish a good deal. Your friends may be too busy to help you now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study your personal wishes and plan how to gain them quickly. Steer clear of an upset partner.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Contact as many friends as you can and make plans for recreation. Go after some personal aim and get it.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Focus your thoughts on public affairs, even though you have other problems to take care of. They are soon solved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have a fine idea to put into operation, but soon a newcomer can deter your progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can make fine plans with your mate today, but later you may find it hard to get rid of a distraction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Contact a clever person who can be helpful to you. Don't take any risks while driving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make a constructive plan for the day and follow through without making any changes.

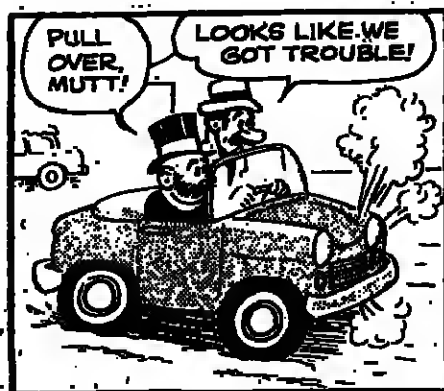
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make arrangements for recreation. You may be tempted to change the schedule, but don't.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study the situation at home and permit kin to settle their own problems. Steer clear of arguments.

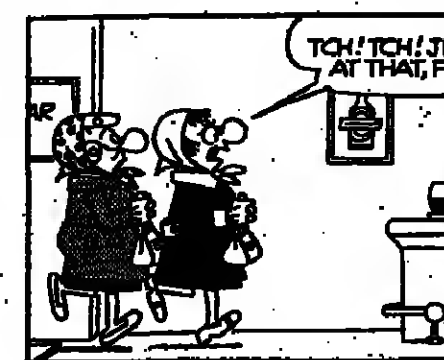
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"The ad said you'd lose pounds and inches overnight!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PADAT

TARFD

ROBRAW

CYOUTH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: HE THE IT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LINEN HAVOC QUANT INFRM Answer: What the justice of the peace charged for uniting them in marriage — THE "UNION" RATE

Reagan suffers defeat in Congress over highway bill

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has suffered an embarrassing defeat in Congress over a highway funding bill despite his last-minute personal visit to the legislative chamber seeking support from fellow Republicans.

Mr. Reagan spent 90 minutes with Senate Republicans Thursday, asking them to uphold his veto of the highway bill, which included a provision to meet a popular demand of increasing the speed limit on some rural highways to 65 mph from 55 (104 kph from 88).

But shortly after Mr. Reagan returned to the White House, 13 of the Republicans deserted him and joined all 54 Senate Democrats in voting 67-33 — exactly the two-thirds majority needed — to quash his veto of the \$88-billion bill and thus pass the legislation into law.

The vote had been touted as an indicator of how Mr. Reagan's last 21 months in office will go. But leading Democrats said after the vote they thought it would have no lasting effect.

The House of Representatives voted to override by 350-73 on Tuesday. In a White House statement, Mr. Reagan said: "I am deeply disappointed by the vote. I knew in advance that the battle would be tough and the odds were long. But we cannot retreat from our commitment to a responsible budget."

"My efforts to control spending are not diminished and I remain firm in my pledge to the American taxpayers to speak out against budgetary excesses," he said.

The defeat was a particularly tough one for Mr. Reagan, who is trying to show he is back in charge after Iran arms scandal revelations, because he appeared to have won the battle on Wednesday when the Senate voted to sustain his veto.

But Democrats immediately moved to reconsider the vote and North Carolina Senator Terry Sanford, the only Democrat to support Mr. Reagan, later switched his vote, changing the outcome.

Democratic leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia said the vote would not diminish Mr. Reagan's influence with Congress.

"This isn't going to make or break the president. There'll be other vetoes," he said. Massachusetts Democrat Edward Kennedy made a similar comment.

"President Reagan has nothing to be concerned about in terms of the effect of this vote on his

leadership. If no more shoes (damaging information) drop on Iran, he is clearly out of the woods, and all of us recognise that, and welcome that," Sen. Kennedy said in a statement.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Reagan wanted to show he intended to fight for the rest of his 21-month term, adding: "There will be no lame duckism as far as he's concerned."

Mr. Reagan's Republican supporters said before the second vote the outcome would determine whether the president could recapture some of his political strength following the battering of the Iran arms scandal, or leave him with little doubt left in his last two years of office.

It was the second time in two years this year that Congress has overridden a veto by Mr. Reagan and the ninth time in Reagan's six years as president. The first veto override this year came on a water and sewer projects bill.

Mr. Reagan vetoed the bill last Friday, calling it a budget buster loaded with special interest "pork barrel" projects.

Supporters of the bill said the projects were needed and 800,000 construction workers would lose their jobs unless the funds were released soon. Republicans who voted for the bill said they were putting the interests of their states ahead of loyalty to Mr. Reagan.

Moscow stages 3rd nuclear test this year

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Friday conducted its third nuclear test since late February, when it ended an 18-month freeze which the United States had refused to join.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said the underground blast was detonated at 0120 GMT at the test site near Semipalatinsk in the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan "with a view to perfecting military technology."

The yield of the blast was between 20 and 150 kilotonnes, and therefore within the limits of the 1974 U.S.-Soviet threshold test ban treaty which both sides say they are observing, although it remains unratified.

The treaty restricts underground explosions to 150 kilotonnes, the equivalent of 150,000 tonnes of dynamite.

Moscow began its unilateral nuclear test moratorium in August 1985, calling on the United States to agree to a total ban on testing as the first step to nuclear disarmament.

Last December it announced that it would end the freeze after the first U.S. test this year.

Washington had continued testing, saying the blasts were necessary to maintain its nuclear deterrent and that problems remained concerning the monitoring of a test freeze.

The United States staged one test on Feb. 3 and another on Feb. 11. Moscow responded with a blast on Feb. 26 and a second on March 12.

Police, squatters clash during Pope's visit to Chile

SANTIAGO (R) — Sixty people were reported wounded and 150 arrested in clashes between police and squatters only hours after Pope John Paul II told slum-dwellers he was deeply moved by the plight of Chile's poor.

According to a spokeswoman for the People's Defence Committee, some 300 policemen used tear gas and water cannons to eject about 1,500 squatters from a vacant lot in the city's Santa Monica neighbourhood, one of the slums that ring Santiago.

A local radio station said later that one of the victims, identified as 26-year-old Roberto Juico, had died in a local hospital of three gunshot wounds. There was no immediate confirmation of the report.

The clashes occurred on the second day of the Pope's visit to Chile, seen as one of the more difficult missions he has undertaken during his papacy. He told reporters on the plane flying him from the Vatican on Tuesday that he thought the rule of President Augusto Pinochet was dictatorial and transitory.

Earlier, violence erupted outside Santiago's national stadium as police lobbed tear gas and sprayed demonstrators with high-powered jets of water as they chanted slogans against the military government.

Barcelona car bomb kills 1, injures 6

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — A powerful car bomb set off by suspected Basque guerrillas killed a 29-year-old civilian and wounded six others in the Spanish city of Barcelona, police said.

It was the city's second bomb attack in a week.

Police said the bomb, planted close to Civil Guard barracks in the centre of Barcelona, was apparently aimed at a Civil Guard car patrolling the district.

It exploded as the paramilitary force vehicle was passing. Police said the attack was a carbon copy of the car bomb which killed one Civil Guard and wounded 18 others in Barcelona last Friday.

Guerrillas of the Basque ETA movement claimed responsibility for last Friday's dockside bombing in statements to Basque newspapers earlier this week. The separatist group also claimed three previous car bombings here last year.

The blast Thursday night killed Jose Francisco Gomez, a waiter in a nearby bar. He was leaving work when the bomb exploded, flinging his body 50 metres away.

The explosion set fire to 15 parked vehicles and rattled the Civil Guard patrol car with shrapnel. One of the occupants was undergoing emergency surgery early Friday and the other guard escaped with minor injuries.

A couple buried under a shower of shattered glass and two other passers-by were treated in hospital.

War increases child mortality in southern Africa

NAIROBI (R) — War and economic destabilisation by South Africa and its allies have helped make infant mortality rates in Angola and Mozambique the highest in the world, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said in a report.

The report, entitled children on the front line, estimates that between 32.5 and 37.5 per cent of children born in the two countries die before they reach the age of five, compared with 10 to 28 per cent in neighbouring countries.

By 1986 the number of Angolan and Mozambican children who died each year before their fifth birthdays as a consequence of war and destabilisation had reached 140,000 and the number was likely to be even higher in 1987, the report adds.

The governments of both countries are fighting guerrilla wars against South African-backed rebels whose main strategy is to disrupt the economy by attacking roads, railways, power stations, schools, clinics and other economic targets.

The UNICEF report says that the rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) have destroyed 42 per cent of the country's health centres since 1982 and have deprived 300,000 children of primary education by destroying their schools.

France to spend \$80b on defence programmes

PARIS (R) — France announced planned spending of 474 billion francs (\$80 billion) on military programmes over the next five years, one third of which will upgrade and modernise its independent nuclear force.

The plan, which goes before the National Assembly next week for debate, excludes running costs for the armed forces which will cost almost as much again.

"The situation as we found it in 1986 was not very good ... We really had to make an effort," Defence Minister Andre Girard told journalists at a press lunch.

Spending on military programmes would rise by about six per cent annually over the next four years, after jumping nearly 12 per cent this year.

He said France had started work on a nine-tonne light nuclear missile to replace some of its land-based nuclear forces by 1996, and that priority in the next few years would be given to maintaining and developing its nuclear submarine capability.

"We are currently spending

3.86 per cent of our gross national product (GNP) on defence, and will increase this to around four per cent by 1991," Mr. Girard said.

This figure compares with around 3.9 per cent in West Germany, five per cent in Britain, between six and seven per cent in the United States and 15 to 17 per cent in the Soviet Union.

France's National Statistics Institute (INSEE) predicts the French economy will grow by between two and three per cent a year in real terms over the next five years, accelerating towards the end of the period, implying a similar or slightly faster growth in the overall defence budget.

This compares with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) target of a three per cent real annual growth in defence spending for member countries.

France forms part of the NATO political structure but is not part of its military organisation.

Kissinger, Schmidt predict Gorbachev's fall in 5 years

WASHINGTON (R) — Two top Western political figures said Thursday they gave reformist Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev only an even chance of survival and urged caution in pursuing what they agreed was an opportunity for better relations with Moscow.

Former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and ex-U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told a seminar at Georgetown University that Mr. Gorbachev's chances of survival were "about 50-50."

"I would not be surprised if, say in a five-year period, there was a change," Dr. Kissinger said. "I do think his position is 50-50."

"I agree," commented Mr. Schmidt. "It's about 50-50." Both said Moscow had no choice but to reform its economy or fall behind the rest of the world in development, and the West should guard against the temptation to see the reforms as an opportunity to negotiate a permanent peace.

"They are engaged in this process, not because they want to be

competitive," Dr. Kissinger said. "Yes, we have an opportunity in the sense they want a period of respite, but there has to be some content given to what is meant by a peaceful world," he continued.

"We don't want to turn Soviet reform into an instrument of Soviet political warfare in which we have to pay in the currency of strategic interests for things they have to do in their own interests," he added.

Meanwhile the New York Times said Friday Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms have made his country exciting and have intrigued the world.

"There is energy coming from the Soviet Union, and it has the world intrigued," the newspaper said in an editorial.

It said the reforms generated debate in the West, adding that the world was watching closely for new developments. "He has made his country exciting," the editorial said.

"All these questions, all this energy, all coming from a gray, leaden, predictable, controlled Soviet Union. Amazing," the newspaper said.

Greece passes land bill despite church protests

ATHENS (R) — Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's Socialist government pushed a controversial bill through parliament early Friday giving the state the right to acquire large tracts of land owned by the Greek Orthodox Church.

But church leaders said the bill, although modified, was still unacceptable and the church was considering giving up its independence and becoming subject to the ecclesiastical Patriarchate of Constantinople (Istanbul).

Diplomats said such a move would embarrass Mr. Papandreu, who is locked in a dispute with Turkey over oil rights in the Aegean Sea.

The bill provides for 130,000 hectares (325,000 acres) of church lands — mainly forests, meadows and farmlands — to be taken over by the state within six months.

The main opposition New

Democracy Party walked out from parliament but this did not prevent the bill being passed by a vote in the early hours by Mr. Papandreu's ruling Pasok Party with Communist support.

Opposition leader Constantine Mitsotakis said if his New Democracy Party came to power the law would be abolished.

Mr. Mitsotakis repeated his call for early general elections, but government spokesman Yannis Kouranis said elections would not be called before the early summer of 1989 — the date when Mr. Papandreu's second term in office ends.

Education and Religion Minister Antonis Tritsis had amended the bill from its original draft, changing one clause which gave local government officials the right to help select local church councils.

Duchess of Windsor's jewels fetch \$33.5m

GENEVA (R) — The Duchess of Windsor's modern jewellery collection brought a staggering 50.2 million Swiss francs (\$33.5 million) in fierce bidding that drove prices on some pieces to 10 times their estimated value.

Buyers included Actress Elizabeth Taylor, who bid from beside her pool in Los Angeles, but the highest single price was 4.73 million Swiss francs (\$3.15 million) paid by a Japanese diamond dealer for a 31-carat diamond ring.

"I bought it for the romance it represents, for the extraordinary quality of the diamond and for the good cause which the money will go towards — the fight against the terrible disease AIDS," Tanneo Takagi told reporters.

The 95 lots fetched 43 million Swiss francs (\$28.7 million) in the auction which ran past midnight. With a 17 per cent commission that the buyers must pay Sotheby's auction house, the total comes to more than 50 million Swiss francs.

The most highly-valued diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires went under the hammer during late Thursday night sale. The two-day sale, with a total of 306 lots, had originally been expected to raise some 11 million Swiss francs (\$7.5 million).

The first day brought in more than four times this sum for the Pasteur Institute for Medical Research in Paris, to which the

duchess left the collection on her death last year.

The Pasteur Institute has been one of the leading research centres in the fight against AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), which destroys the body's defence system.

The institute announced at the auction that it would use the money to build and run new laboratories specialising in AIDS and cancer research.

The collection combines 20th-century masterpieces with historic love tokens given to the duchess, an American divorcee, by the British king who gave up his throne to marry her.

King Edward VIII abdicated on Dec. 11, 1936, after a reign of 11 months, to marry the Baltimore-born Wallis Simpson. They lived in exile in Paris as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. The duke died 15 years ago.

The bidding from the first item was fast and furious with a series of breath-taking duels with buyers in the circus tent vying against absent bidders using direct telephone lines.

COLUMNS 7&8

1st plastic magnet produced

LONDON (R) — Scientists in the Soviet Union have made the world's first plastic magnet which is more than six times lighter than magnetised iron, according to a report in the British scientific journal Nature. The magazine suggested plastic magnets, being developed by chemists in Moscow, could eventually be used as components in lightweight motors for products such as toys and aircraft. Magnets lose their magnetic properties if overheated but the plastic material, named bipo, is said to be able to withstand temperatures three times more than the boiling of water before it becomes ineffective. The article said the plastic magnets would not be used commercially for some time. Theories that magnetic plastics might exist date back to the late 1970s when it was thought that long thin chains of molecules might behave like iron.

Prince expresses dislike while sampling tea

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Prince Charles, on the second day of a three-day working visit to Kenya, had a bitter experience last Wednesday when he was called upon to sample teas. After a tour of a tea factory, the prince, attired in a tailored safari suit, was asked to sample the broken Orange Pekoe tea that Kenya's lush tea-growing region prides itself on. He dipped a spoon into a container of the brew, sipped the tea and then grimaced in disgust before spitting it into a spittoon. "It would have been better with milk and sugar," said the prince, who was clearly embarrassed by his reaction to the first tasting. He went on, however, to sample three other grades of the broken Orange Pekoe without reaction or comment. The heir to the British throne visited a coffee plantation and factory and a tea plantation before ending the morning at the tea factory, where he saw how the green tea leaves were fermented to produce the familiar black tea leaves.

201 cases of AIDS diagnosed in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Twenty-nine people have died of AIDS in Israel and 12 more are suffering from the disease, a health ministry spokesman has said. The spokesman, Dr. Abraham Morag, said most of the victims were homosexual or bi-sexual and the others contracted Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome through blood transfusions or intravenous drug use. Morag said 201 Israelis had been diagnosed as carriers of AIDS antibodies, which indicate the presence of the virus in the blood, but have shown no symptoms of illness. Addressing a symposium on AIDS, an incurable disease that destroys the body's ability to fight infection, Morag said most victims in Israel had been exposed to the virus while overseas.

Crocodile leaps at American model's corpse

SYDNEY (R) — A large crocodile leapt from the water and tried to grab the corpse of an American model from the search boat which had recovered it in Australia's remote north-west, police said. Ginger Fay Meadows, 24, was dragged away by a similar four-metre crocodile in the Prince Regent River last week and the body was found after two days of intensive search. The corpse, wrapped in a plastic body bag, was being brought ashore in a boat when the reptile tried to snatch it. Police said they had to fire shots to frighten away the reptile, which tore the bag but failed to get the body which was fastened to the bow.

Chris Evert Lloyd files for divorce

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (R) — American tennis star Chris Evert Lloyd has filed for divorce from her husband, John Lloyd, after an eight-year marriage. In documents filed in Broward County circuit court, Evert Lloyd listed irreconcilable differences as grounds for ending her marriage to Lloyd, a British tennis pro. The divorce filing came after a six-month separation, the second one for the couple. When Evert Lloyd last December confirmed widespread reports of the couple's marital difficulties, she described their separation as "a very amicable one" and said they were not then considering divorce. At the time, she said they were trying to work out their problems while pursuing separate career goals.

Prime Minister Lange's car hits pedestrian

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange was under investigation by traffic police last week after the car he was driving hit a pedestrian. The pedestrian, Michael Johnson, 36, suffered head and leg injuries in the accident but was said by hospital authorities to be in a satisfactory condition. The accident occurred a few blocks from parliament house.

London art sale brings \$26.2m

LONDON (AP) — Another London art sale of impressionist and modern paintings and sculpture brought \$16.4 million (\$26.2 million) following the world-record Vincent Van Gogh "Sunflowers" sale at Sotheby's on Monday. Two portraits by Austrian painters Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele sold for \$1.76 million (\$2.8 million) each. Both paintings came from unidentified Swiss sources and were bought anonymously by telephone bidders. Klimt and Schiele were the principal painters in the art Nouveau style in Austria at the turn of the century. Sotheby's said there was "heavy buying" from Japan. The Japanese Fuji Gallery dealers paid \$561,000 (\$897,600) for a portrait of a pretty young woman in a flowered hat by Pierre-Auguste Renoir. The Van Gogh "Sunflowers" sold anonymously for \$24.75 million (\$39.85 million) on Monday, smashing all records for an auctioned painting, and 42 other works made nearly \$13.8 million (\$22 million).

Airliner collides with 'flying' fish

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — An aerial collision between a jet airliner and a fish dropped by an eagle delayed an Alaska Airlines flight for about an hour while the plane was inspected for damage. "They found a greasy spot with some scales, but no damage," said Paul Bowers, Juneau Airport manager. The collision occurred as the Boeing 737 took off Monday from Juneau, the pilot told Bowers. About 400 feet (120 metres) past the runway, the jet crossed the flight path of the eagle, fish in talons. "The law of the jungle prevailed," Bowers said. "As the larger bird approached, the smaller bird dropped its prey." The fish hit a small window at the top of the cockpit, Bowers said. A mechanic was dispatched to the plane's next stop in Yakutat, 320 kilometres to the north west, said Jerry Kvamokoff, Alaska Airlines customer service manager in Juneau. The eagle apparently escaped injury.

All trapped Canadian miners brought to surface

MURDOCHVILLE, Quebec (R) — Some 44 miners trapped underground for almost 24 hours in a copper mine fire that killed one person were brought safely to the surface, a company spokesman said.

"Everyone is now on the surface. Everyone is out," company spokesman Len Marquis told Reuters.

The first of the trapped miners to be taken out was a group of 17 who had been caught at the 2300 feet (700 metres) level of the mine, 700 kilometres east of Quebec City.

An hour later the final 27 miners were brought to the surface.

Miner's wives who had spent a tense, daylong vigil at the local union hall embraced their husbands as they stepped smiling,

their faces darkened by smoke, from the ambulances which had brought them from the mine.

Marlyne St-Croix, whose husband Benoit was one of the rescued said she was, "very happy he was alive and healthy," explaining that Thursday was his 34th birthday.

After embracing, the miners and their wives were taken inside the hall, where the men will be kept overnight for medical observation. Other rescued mine workers were being kept in hospital overnight.

The dead man was named earlier as Ange-Aime Kennedy, 36, who died after being trapped by smoke from the fire, company officials said. The dead man's brother Jean-Paul, who was with him, was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OWAN SEARIE
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ORIENTAL DUCK

Both vulnerable South deals
NORTH
♠ A J 3
♥ Void
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ A K J 5 4
WEST
♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ K 10 8 5
♦ A 10 3
♣ 10 8
EAST
♠ Void
♥ J 9 4 3 2
♦ K J 9 7 4
♣ Q 9 6

SOUTH
♠ K Q 6 5 4 2
♥ A Q 7 6
♦ Void
♣ 7 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

If your bridge cruise takes you to Japan, drop in at one of the local bridge clubs. The hospitality is among the best in the world and the standard of play surprisingly high. In 1985, for the first time, a Japanese team won the Far East Bridge Championship.

When this hand was dealt at a rubber bridge game in Japan, North-South reached six spades via the auction shown. North's jump to slam is something of a shot

in the dark, but since his partner had shown at least 10 cards in the major suits, he elected to take a gamble.

Since both declarer and dummy rated to have distributional hands, West quite logically attacked with a trump. Declarer won in dummy, came to hand with a diamond ruff and tried the club finesse. East took his queen and forced declarer with a diamond. Now declarer had only 11 tricks, and he could no score his 12th via a heart ruff, for then he would have no entry back to his hand to draw the trumps.

Actually, declarer did not need the club finesse. If the suit was breaking 3-2, as is normal, there was no way the contract could be defeated. All it needed was careful timing.

After winning the first trick in dummy, declarer should come to hand with a diamond ruff and then trump a heart on the table. After cashing the ace of trumps, declarer must lead a low club from dummy. The defenders are helpless.

Suppose East wins the first club and returns the suit. Declarer wins in dummy and returns to hand with a diamond ruff to draw trumps and cash the ace of hearts. He still has a club with which to get to the table to cash his tricks.



THANK YOU

The Jordanian Save The Children Fund would like to extend its gratitude and deep appreciation to everyone who participated in the Spring Festival at the Plaza, and contributed either with their time and effort or financially and in kind. The festival succeeded thanks to your involvement, and your support will enable the society to provide greater services and better programmes for the children of Jordan.

Our warmest thanks to you all